





MARVEL COMICS COVERS OF JACK KIRBY

VOLUME 1 1961-1964

INTRODUCTION BY

Patrick McDonnell

ENITED AND DESIGNED BY

Vincent Iadevaia
John Lind

Mike Essl

PUBLISHED BY

Mike Richardson







BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

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MOST COMARDIAN NO. EM ENLEME ET

Smilin Ston Lee plantered Marvet counic covers with boun healin brangadonic and hyperactive hyperbole that he could but up late document's claims became behind them was the genius and activity of Jack Kurby

The collection is he first in a definitive scripe of another places testament to like quality and quantity of work produced by one of America's greatest artists in machine

told tales to amonals with single images. Dynamic street ings larved you in, wanting more. Kirby's covers had a raw energy and power that was right in your face. They glowed

This volume is the early work (196), 1964) when "the Morter Center's group solers in the Morter Age of Contical" ee and Kirky were parting out mostly mouster hooks before exentering the super hero pool. From the perspective of the restores, they aptend in. With the first three they still had cheir fact on the monator world: a spiket creature green space aliens, giant fenerts, and startled spectators.

Blokurds and Sue Storm are wearing a backpers sait and a remailte house from any majority dy. But the classic Fouriestic Four #3 cover heralds a new age, goiting the former that monator diches resuains, though: the startled crowds on resultops, but below the Faulantic Four #3 tops, a caption.

Kirly was known for how to magically captured action with characters temping off the page, boulds burst ing and trackle tracking. There are so many contaming Baryahnii #4]. Kirky seeped especially inspired in his ore ation of the Sgt. Pary covers (#1, #3, #4, #6, #10, and #13). They transport you right into the least of the battle

"up a hig fam of Kirby's "minimized" covers But content — two figures—the elegant Strange Toles #107 (face versater), Strange Toles Annual #2 (cought in a spider's web), and Vhier of Suspense #36 (from Man and Captain America). These all portray a favorite recovering Marvel theme of here fighting bero, with the end-all being fourney into Markey #55, in which Thor fights himself

Guiley pleasures should when you person that book the otherworldly transparent acts in Fermionic First #13: the Fautastic Four and X-bien literally in the hands of the American Andreid Fautastic Four #28); Take to Astroniah #41, which has so be the most ac. Karby like cover Karby ever drew and a hant of the future the first "count" cover with the Watching Fautastic Four #19).

There are no many As povers here that only Kirlyr

no taken what's palon on, but I'm all in the wonderful per spective of Theo coming at you wielding his harmon, the two villams convering at face so the walls collapse second harmon. Bridge switting as a mysterious award descends on a dance around this awarping composition. The unifor tunets caption reads: "We decaded that this cover is two benefited to speid with captions... to here it it is your fagure

Particular Func, the Hell, Spulor-Man, Thor. Iron Mon. Anti-Man, Sgt. Fucy, Daredevil, the Avengers, Captain America joining the Pireking Communics (which was my deschate).

And this is part the opening act. Writ until v———
when Kirky goes, are available.

Long live the King



ECHOES OF THE KING

BY VINCENT IADEVAIA

I always total myself I'd never get into collecting Silver Age Marvet comics (1996-1969). I loved comics and nagerty swaited my weekly trip to my total comic shop but tolincling violage books? No good would ever come of st

But here I was at a concention in New York Dity. bright great and youthful, wandering the show floor. Pate moved have units around an armon proved frequency. Amound myself staring down a booth solling the grey books I told myself 19 never teach. I was instantly booked techings wer and Finalistic Four and Awagers covers, but I couldn't take met eyes off a really best-tip trapy of Thirs to Astonick #27. its giant auto still glowing atomic gener despite having neen, better days. I ptalled every dollar I had out at my pocket and asked the vendor how much. "Alt. Jack Kieby. you we glot gloom tracte." He must event, before telling me a price so high it made my ears sing, I gave that host a few more southed socies before walks at away in defeat. On the begins with the contract of the second state of the region of months of the second state of messed my store all I could think about was that comic book cover and the mame lack Karby. I hadn't the slightest close who he was.

The son of Austrian Jewish immigrants, Jacob Kurtzberg was born on August 28, 1917, in New York City A talented actist without formal tenining, Kurtzberg entered the counter industry when he was eighteen, illustrating daily counter for newspapers under the pen names Jack Curtiss and Jack Cortex before ultimately leading on Jack Kirly: Kurby met Jac Samon in 1941, and together they arented Captain. America and counties; other harcon during the Golden Age of Counter (1935–1956)

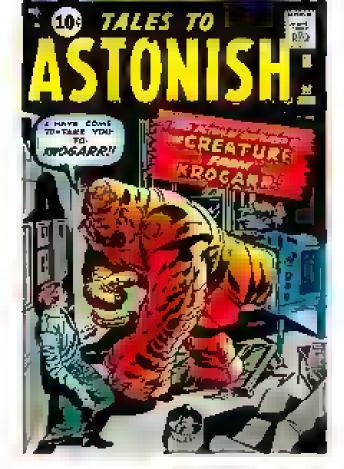
In 1956. Kirby now forty-one and happity materied with three kids, returned to freetance for Martin Goodman's company Atlas Camics, formerly known as Tiesely Consics. Interest in adence fection and monster movies was at an all-time high by the late 1950s, and in an effort to keep Atlas affect, Goodman hept his staff focused on what was popular. Kirby teamed up with editor in chief 5 no. Lee, and the two debated their first title. Strange

World: #1 (December 1950), with Kirly penciling the cover and feature story, "I Discovered the Socret of the Flying Jameers" On the cover: a massive guryte flying sensor looms over the citizens of Earth as it wasts them not to come any closes. For only ten court, Stronge World: Eichod, off a platform for Kirly his explore the mast scientists, want atoms and to any over now that he mad scientists, want atoms and to any over now that he mad scientists, when had past relevanded the company to Marvel Comics noticed how well DC's pomic bests about the superhers team the Justice League at America were selling—despite the super-hero general tempopularity at the prine decode—and directed Kirly and see to count to with their contacts.

Products Four forever changed the count hook industry, beinging reasons to a clicked peace and unbeying in the Marvel age of Counce. These "heroes" were untike to be against hook to be proposed to readers of all ages. Kirby and Lee reinvented the super-base generated created an endless universe for readers and them aclose to explore

I could analyze any cover here, but I'd like to focus on one often-overlooked cover from these early Fantastic Four insues that really studie out to me. Fantastic Four of (October 1962) is an unasuming cover, with Kirby and Lee inversifing their science fiction expertise to introduce some otherwordly four from Planet II to their new fantastic tenes. Although it doesn't have the most dynamic cover from this period, upon closer examination, this could book reveals a not about its artist. It's also one or the few covers Kirby taked out of the hundreds of covers he penciled at Marreet.

In the easty 1960s. Kirby and Lee clearly had a thing for orange rock monsters. "Scorpel The Greature Who Graded the Earth!" appeared in America Adventures 46 (November 1961), "Orago, the Uncompressing" in Strongs



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Journey unto Mystery #113 Decomber 1964

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The Funtantic Four #7 October 962

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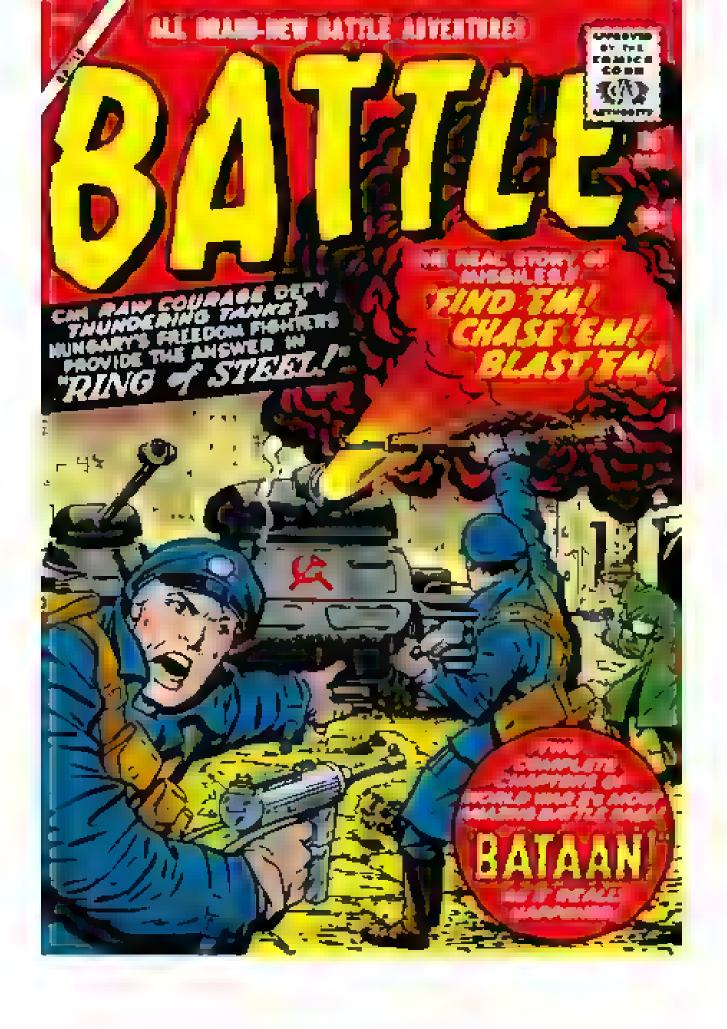
Strong Take #90 - November 1961

Tales #90 (November 1961), and "The Creature from Krogarri in Tules to Asionish #25 (Nevember 1961)and that's not all of them. But anlike these destructive monsters. Ben Grimm had brast and soul. The Thing's hackground was anspired by Kirby's childrond; they were both bors cate and raised by a Jewish carely on the Lower. East Side of New York City. The neighborhood at the time was rough to say the least, filled with perconners to the United States arom all over the world. A second-genteration. American, Kirby grew up in one of the many tightly picked. tenements that lined the city blocks while his tather wasted a factory job to support the family despite impovi erlahed conditions during the Great Depression. He spent his days reaming the neighborhood with a tough gong of kids, slowys on the lookout for a ball game or a fight. The time Kirky speni glowing up here marifled a coughness. that persisted within him for the rest of his life. The Thing rose up from humble begingings and faced construct challenges, but his sourit never wavered. He was someone who never backed down from a fight, by it literal or metaphorica. In creating the Thing Kirby created a reflection. of himself, a testament to the human spirit's ability to overcome adversity and fight for what's right.

Kirby's pencils and take on the cover of Fautastic Four #7 into this atmost ally trange monater into a beautiful organic being, deep in throught. With his eyes closed, the Thing seems pensive—and it's hard not to wonder what he's thinking about. To me, he's reflecting on this gift/curse he's been dealt and the responsibility that comes with being a hero. (He's probably also thinking about clobberin someone.) The Thing's early designs we also agreed reminder that no Marvel character was perfect from the start. During these only years at Marvel, Kirby continued to hope his cyaft, refining these characters and pushing the beautituries of the mechanic Sure, there were some masses along theway, but Kirby always continued to iterate, never losing sight of near perfection as he grew as a storyteller

Equally deserting of our attention on this cover is Reed Richards, the enigmatic reader and brilliant scientist. Reed already tooks a lot like Kirby to me—but it's even more evident on this cover. This portrait of Reed in many ways may be the closest self-portrait of Kirby we have from these early years at Marvet. Reminiscent of the tage mous scientists from the pre-Morvet monster stories. Reed and his grandiese plans of interstellar brovet kirk off the Marvet Universe. Mr. Pantostic embodied Kirby's inventive mind as he penciled negetible machines years before their time. Kirby drew the future bringing to tife flying cars powered by magnets and supercomputers small enough to fit in your ranket.





Reed also took on Kirby's past trauma, anothercharacteristic that's frequency massed. Fautastic Four Annual #i (Summer 1961) confirms that Mr. Fautastic's hair turned white at his temples after he helped Alfied prisoners escape from the Nazis during World War IJ. Kirby was drafted on June 7, 4943, and arrived to Normandy cendarys. after D-day. As a scout to the Fifth Infantry Division, he grent the war creating maps of enemy territory as his unitmarches through the north of France. When his tinit liberated a concentration comp. the camp's oppolling conditions and the emanation of those apprisoned there left a making impact on him. In 1945, after suffering severe frost bite. Kirby 1998 awarded a Combat Infantryman Badge and a Brouse Star Metal, and was honorably discharged from the US Army. He returned stateside to begin conucs again, but his expectences during the war scaped with ofm, always. finding their way into his work throughout the years. Reed's white hair, olthough each a simple detail that one can attribute to visual style, carries deep meaning and gives as a view into the artist's past

h's been a long time since I heard the name Jack Kirby on that fatched day at the comic convention. What started as a small, meager collection of Kirby covers has become a lifetong pursuit that's bestowed on me unimagmable friendships and experiences along the way. Now, 512 comic books later my collection still continues to grow, despite my tack of closet space. I could ramble on about lack Kirby covers all day. It's my specialty—but this is where I'll seave you, where the true story begins. This coltection of work from 1961 to 1964 that you're about to dig into is a brilliant display of Kirby's deep introspection and reinventing of the super here genre. The IB3 covers presented in this first volume are shiring examples of a revotution that took place in comb brooks and a tribute to the generathet as Jack Kirley, the King of Comins, I hope itsters something deep inside your very being like it did for me all those years ago.



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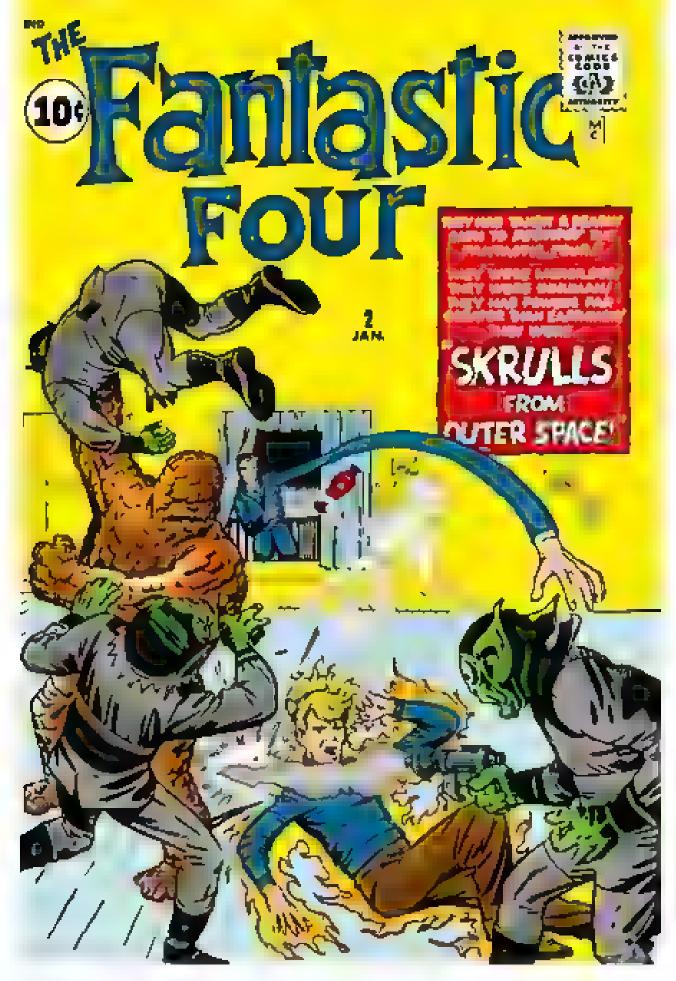
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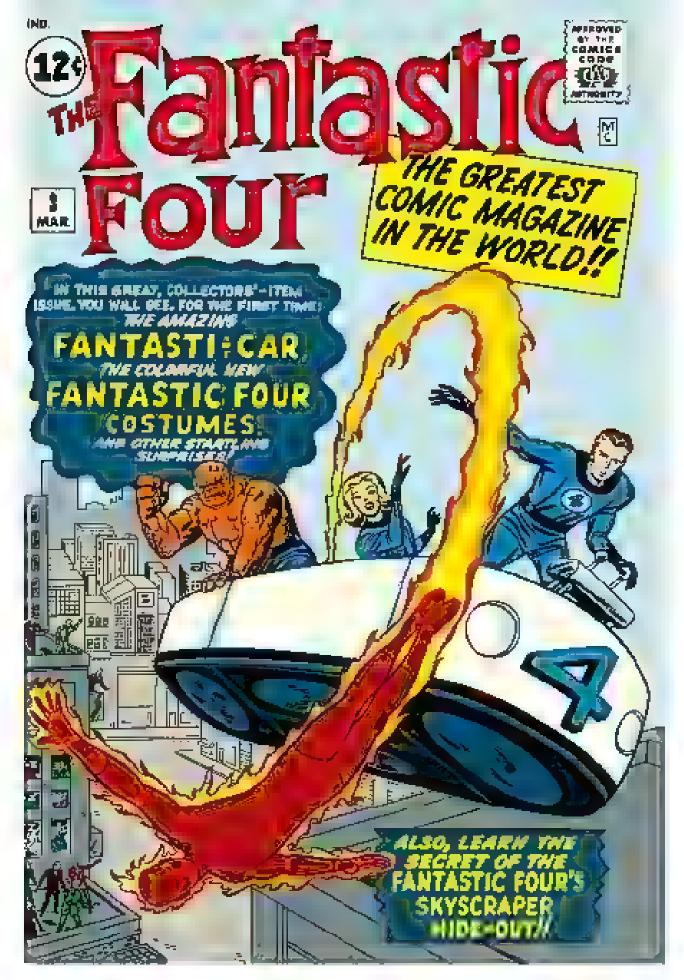
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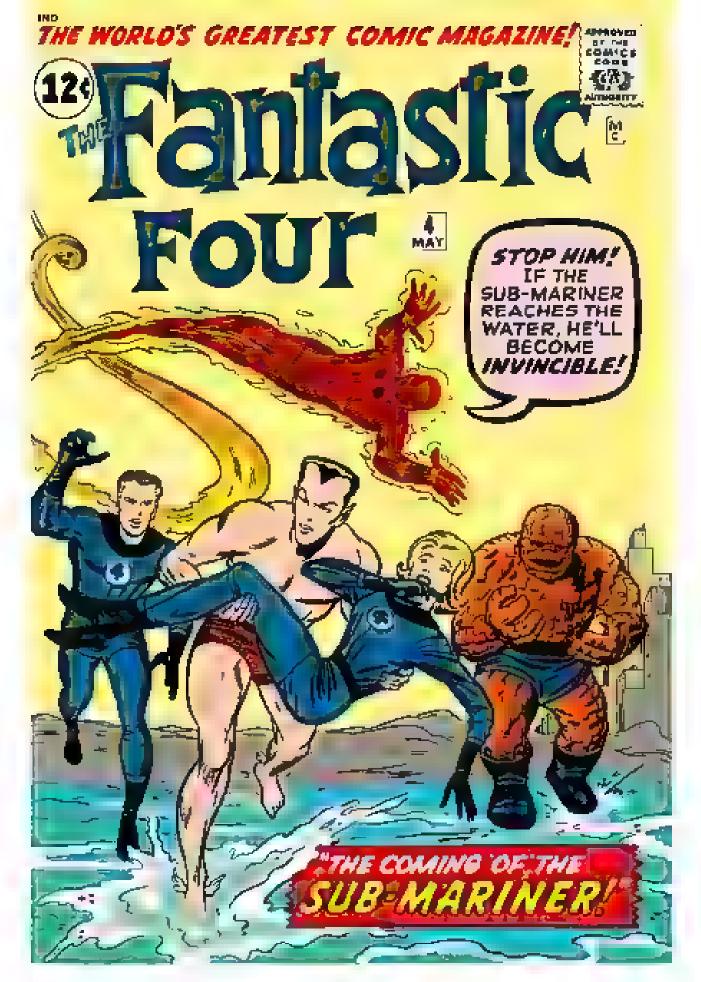
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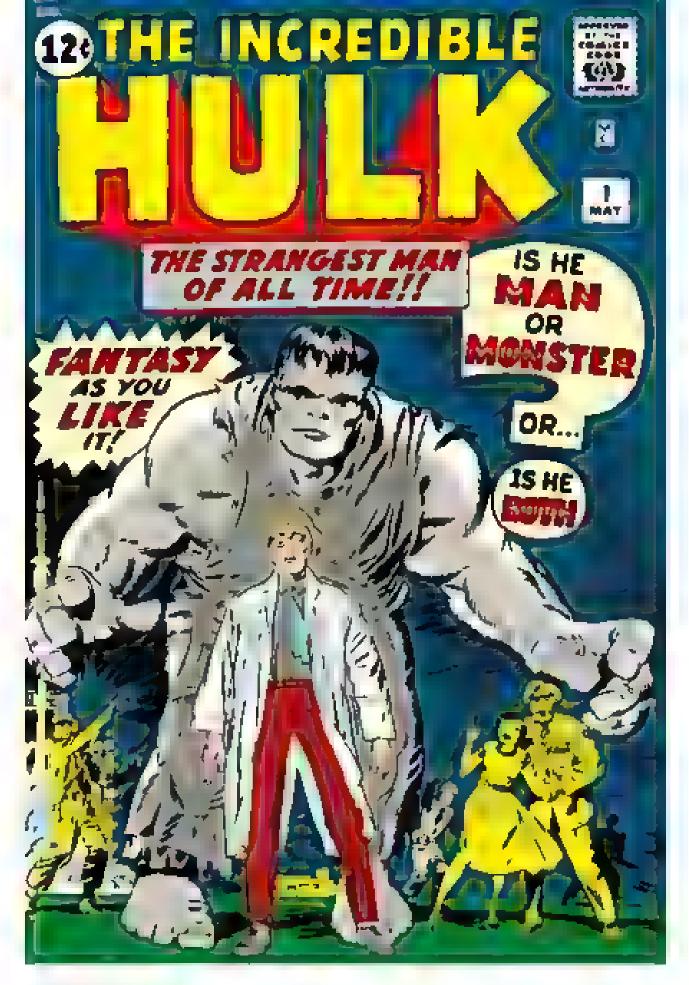
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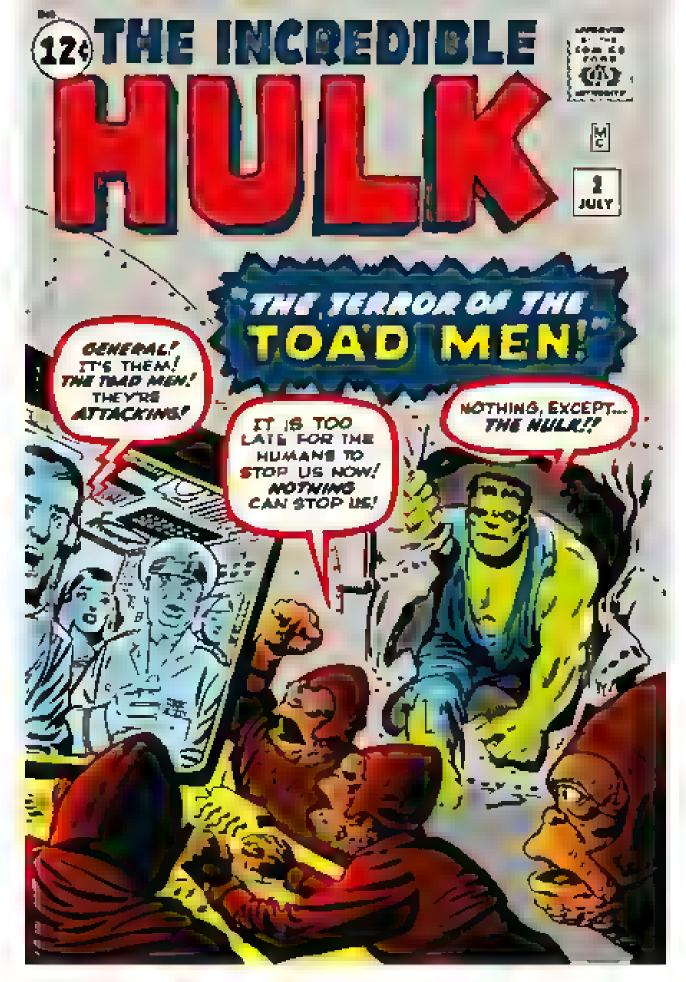
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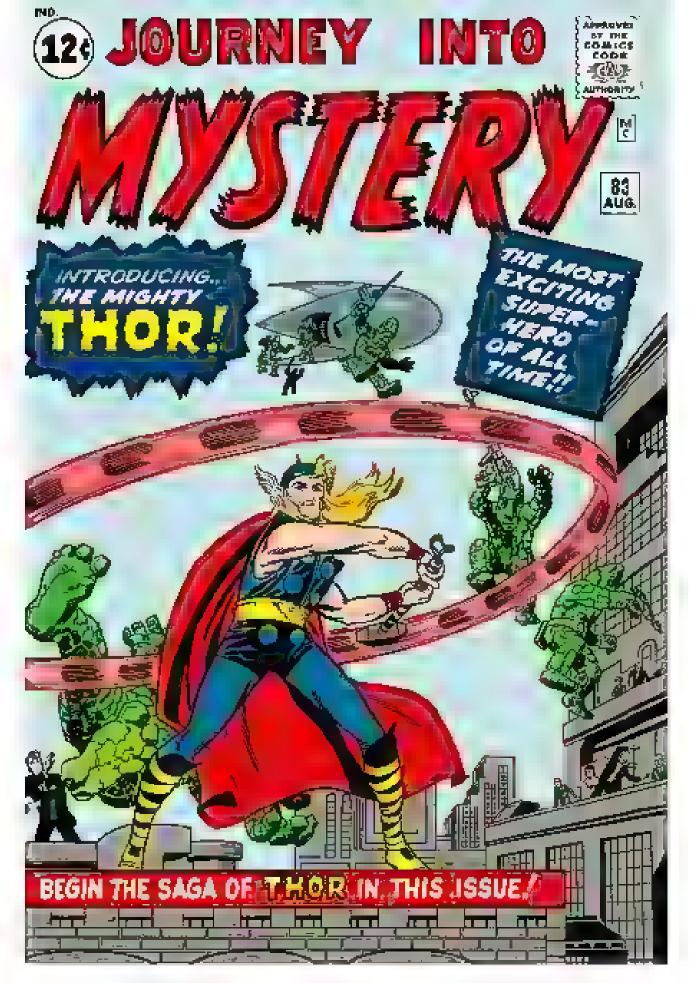
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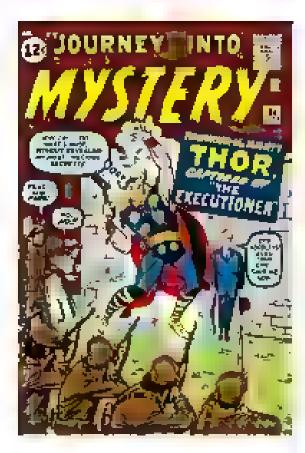


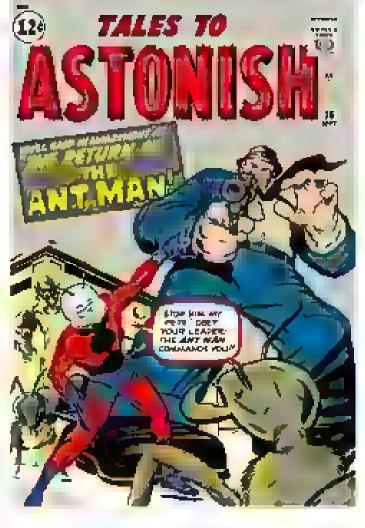
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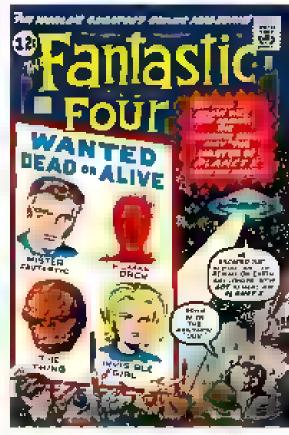
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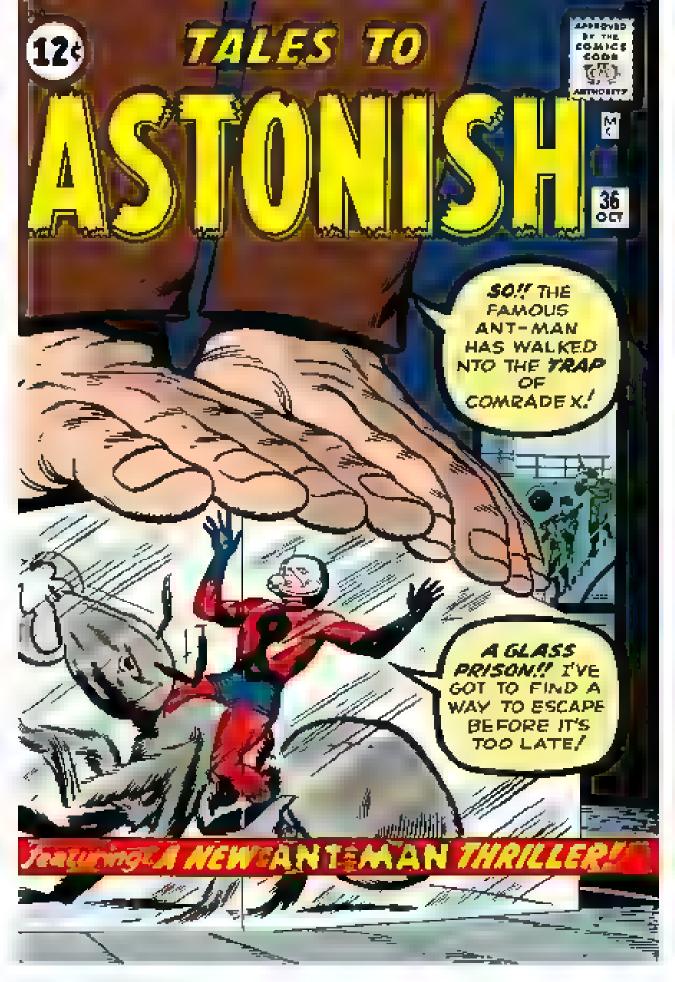






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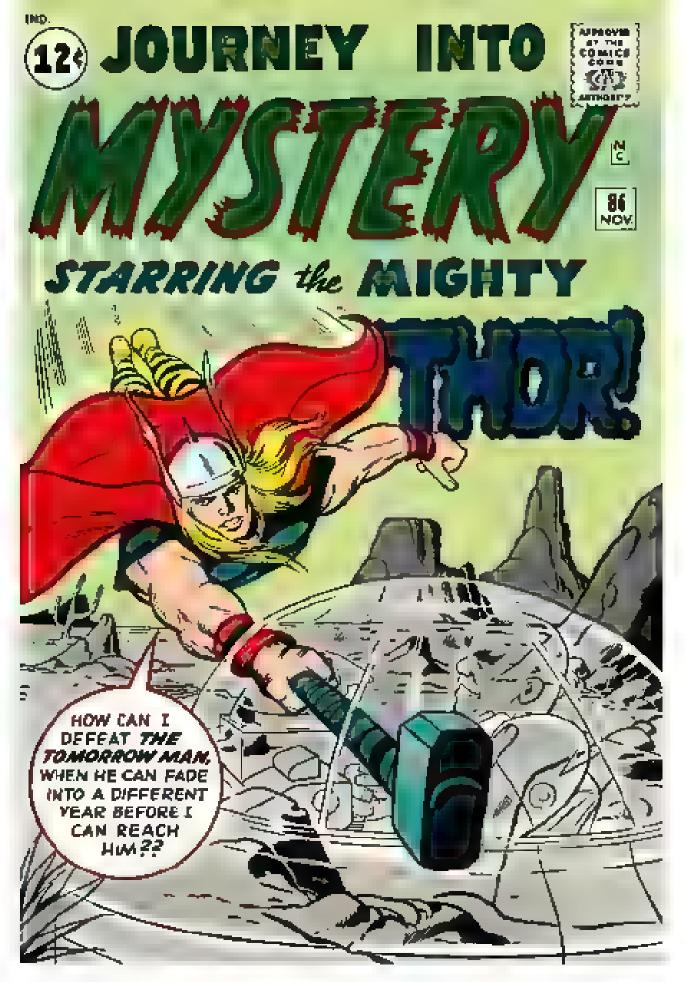




THRILLERS IN THIS ISSUE!



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"WHO NEEDS YOU"?
THE ASTONISHING GLASH
OF MAN VS. ROBOT!

"SECRET OF THE HIDDEN PLANET"?

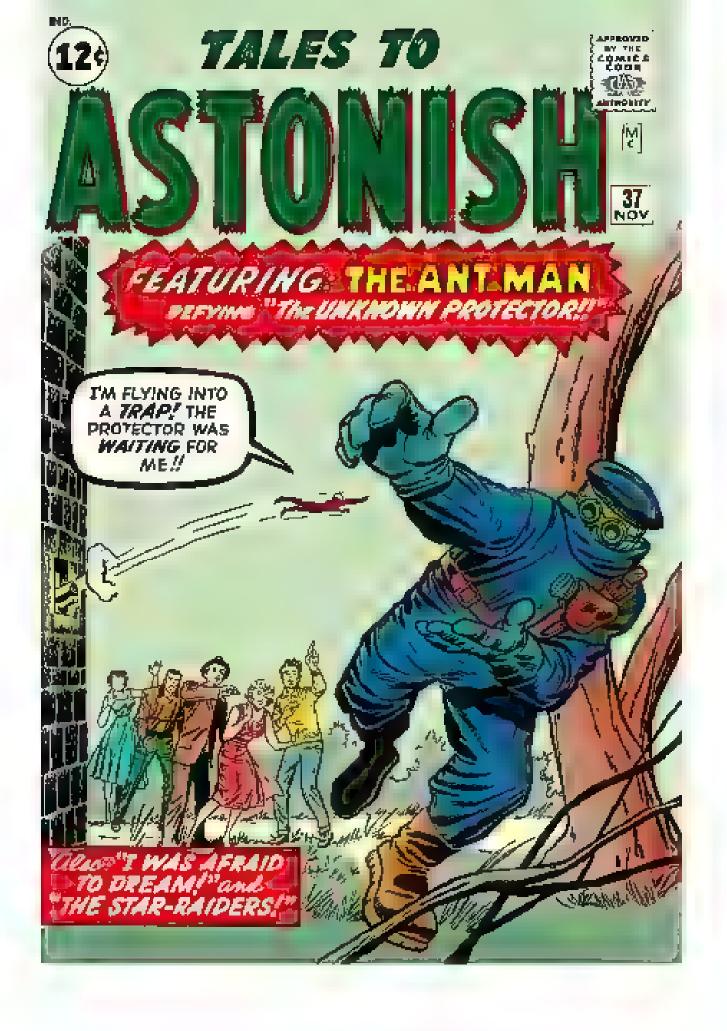


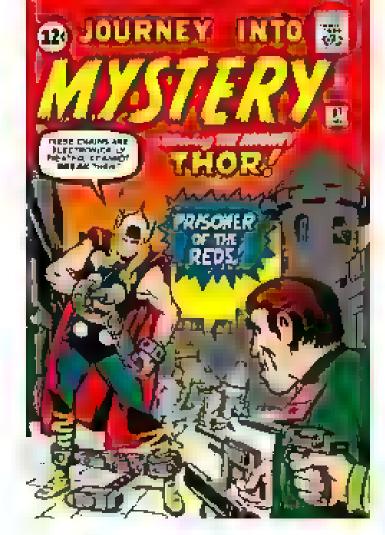


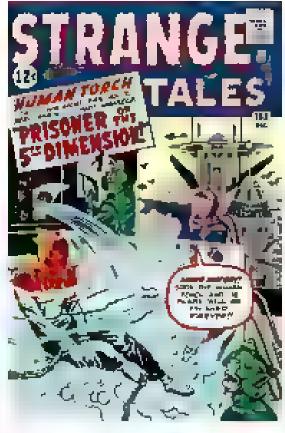
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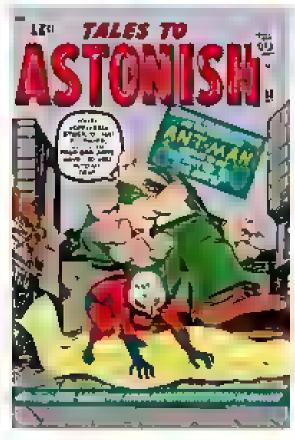


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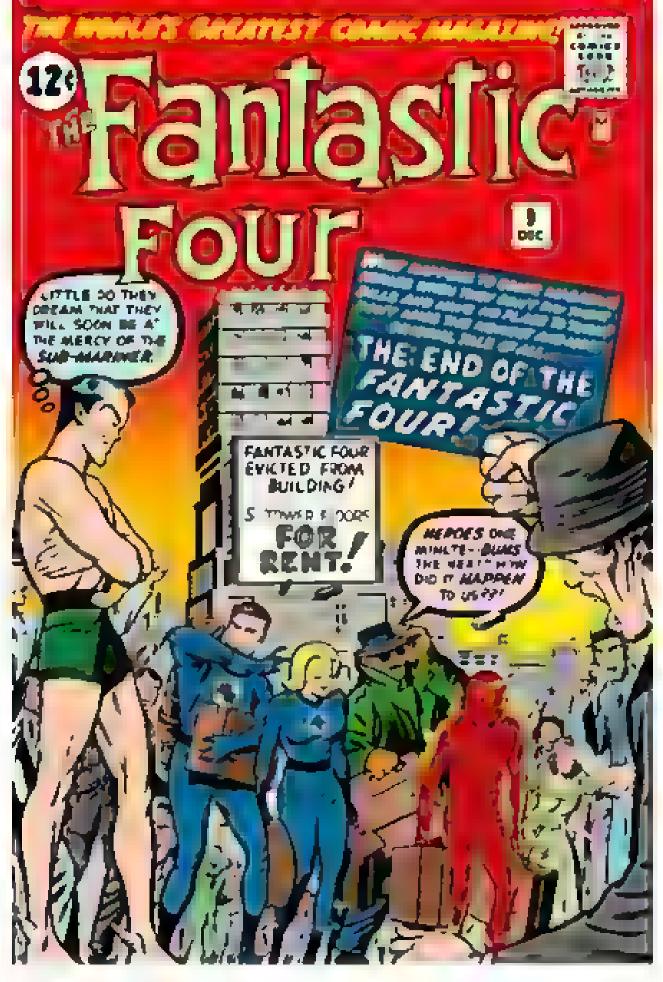
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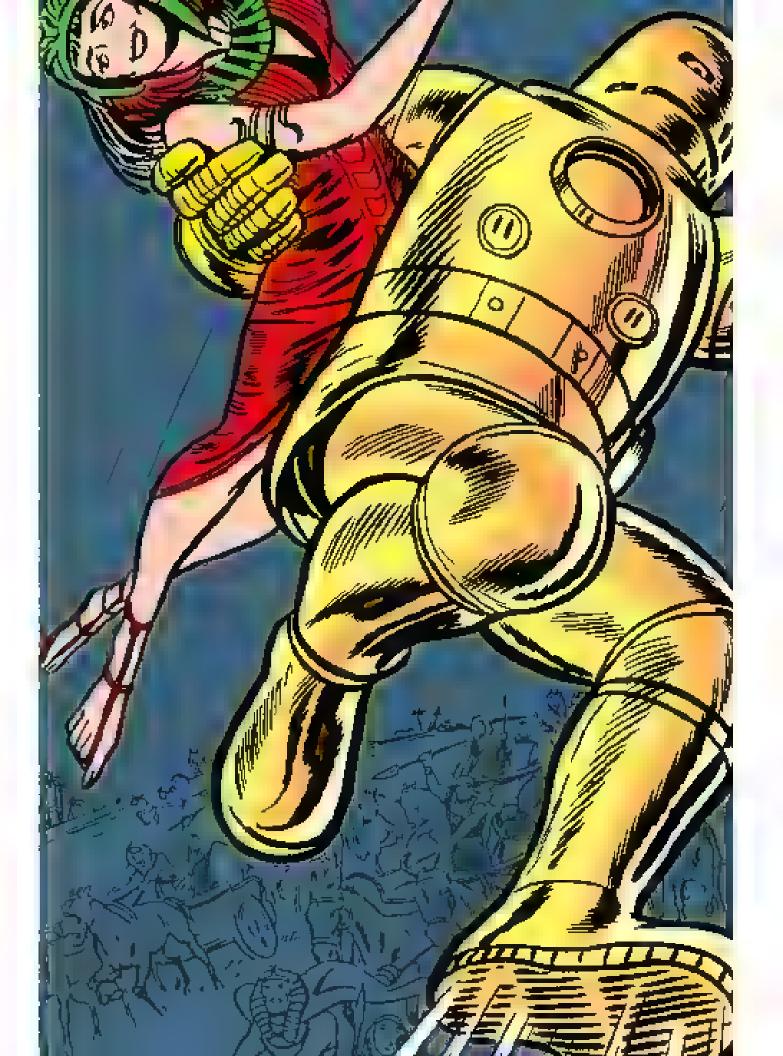
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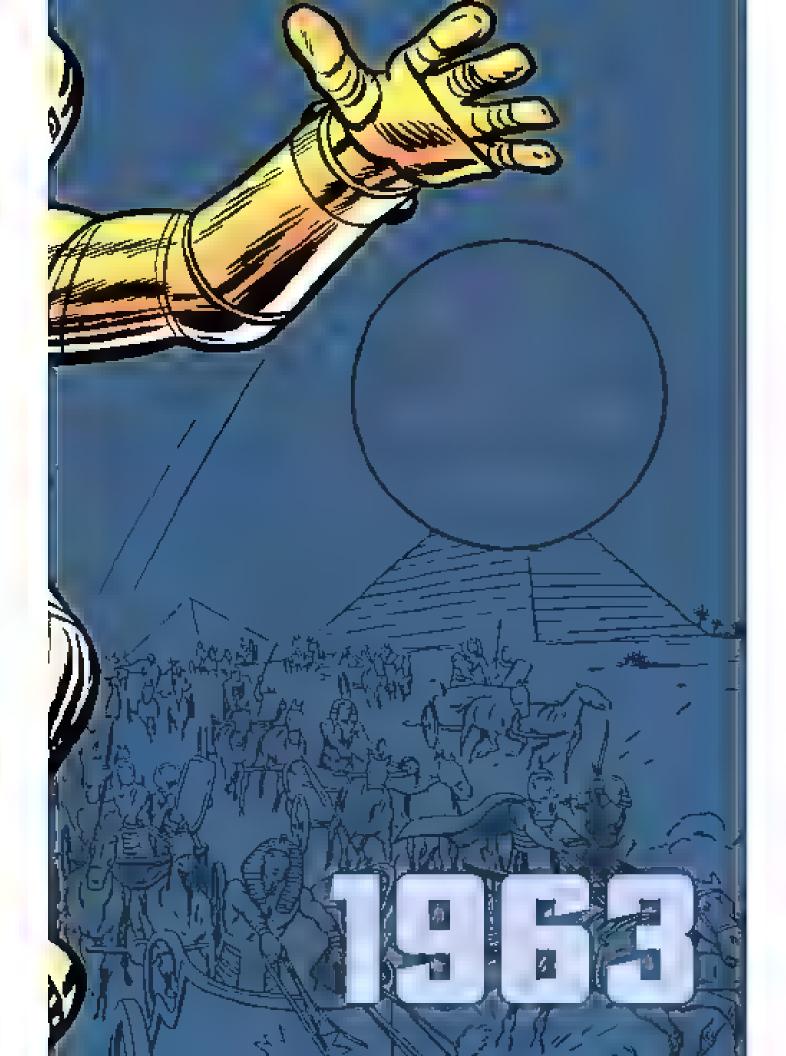


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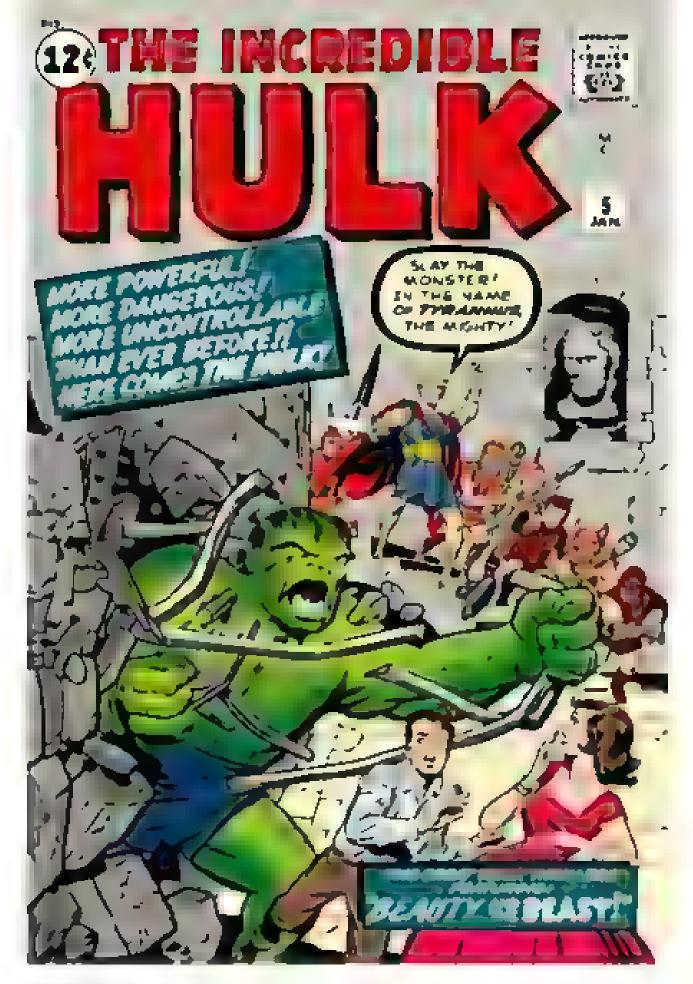






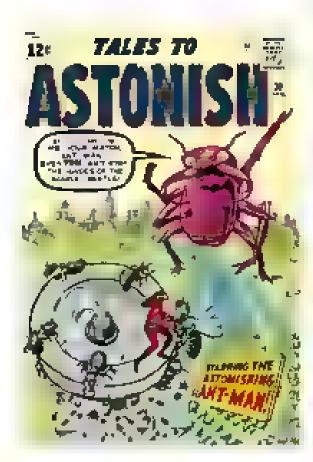


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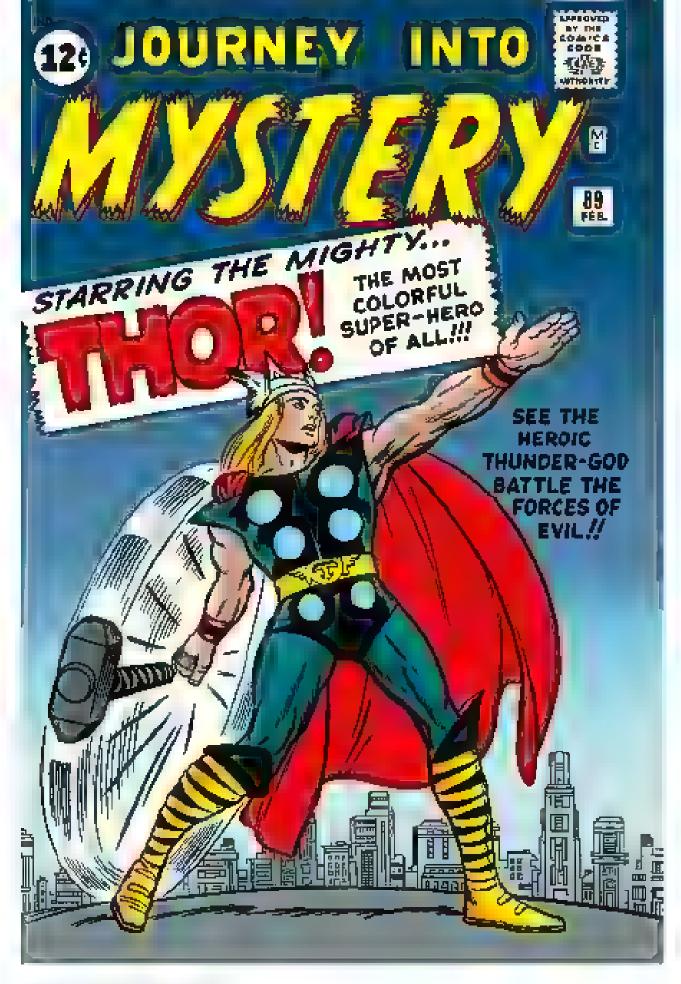
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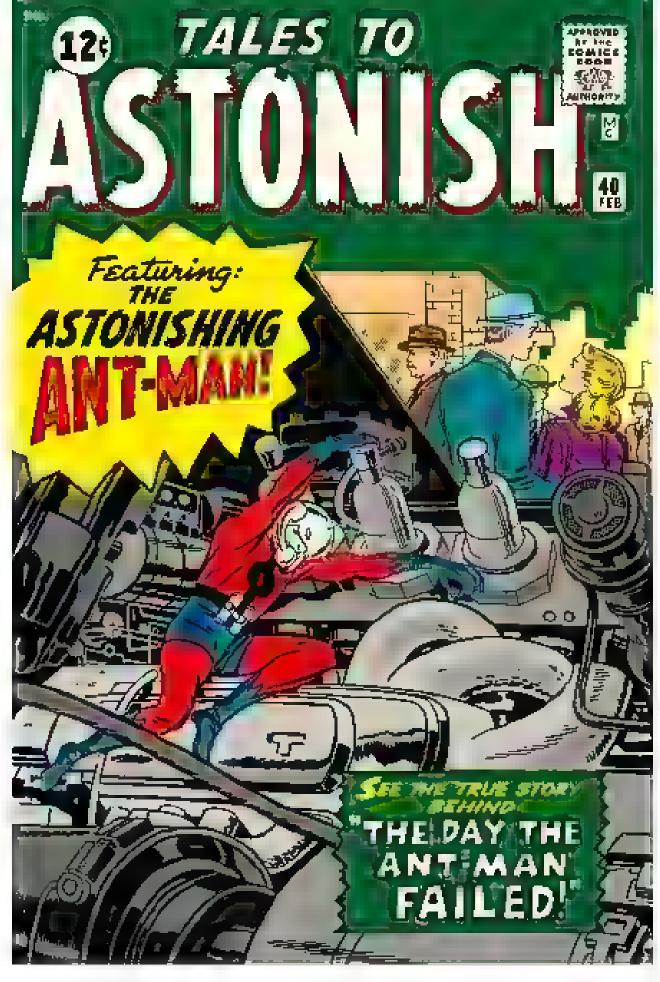




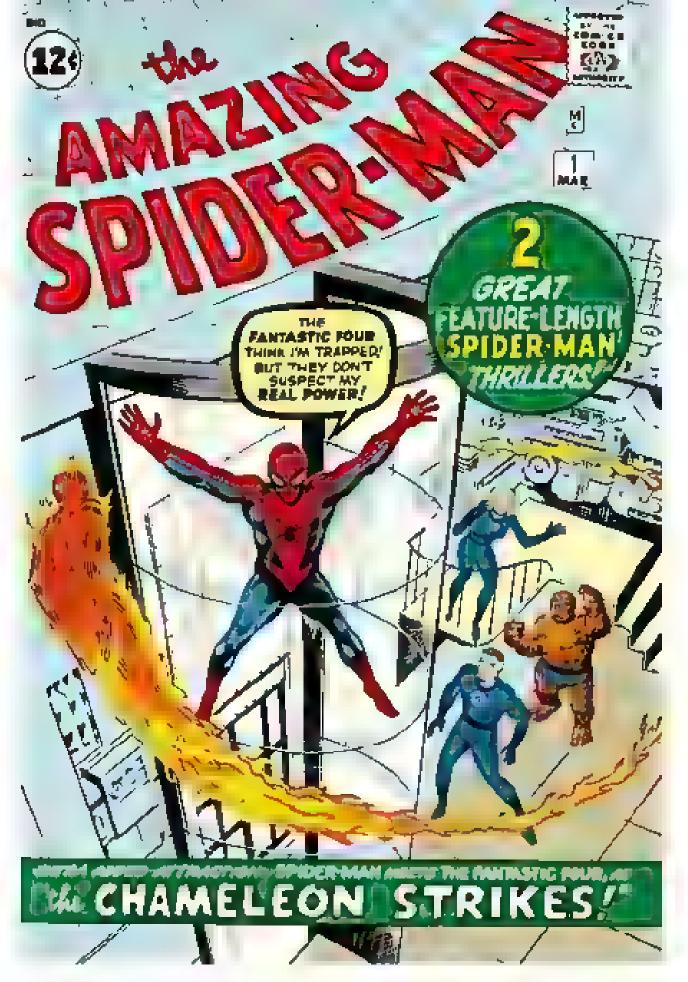
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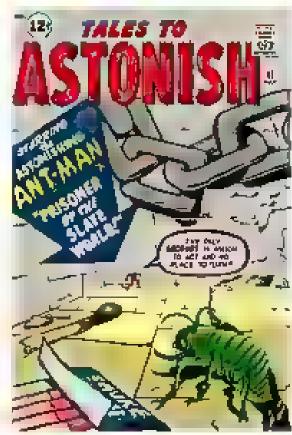
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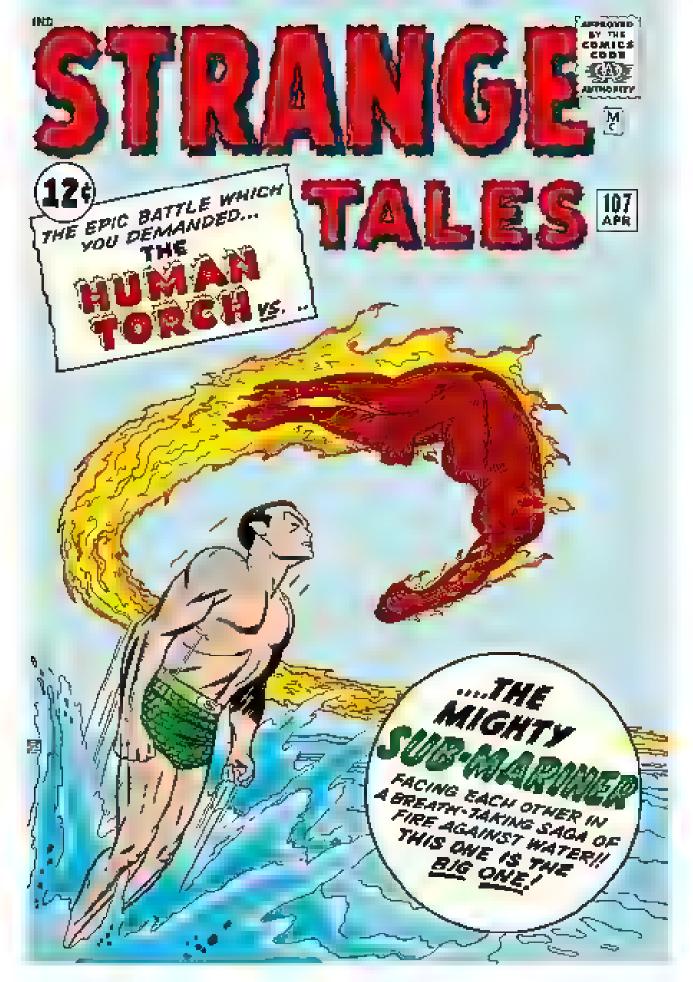
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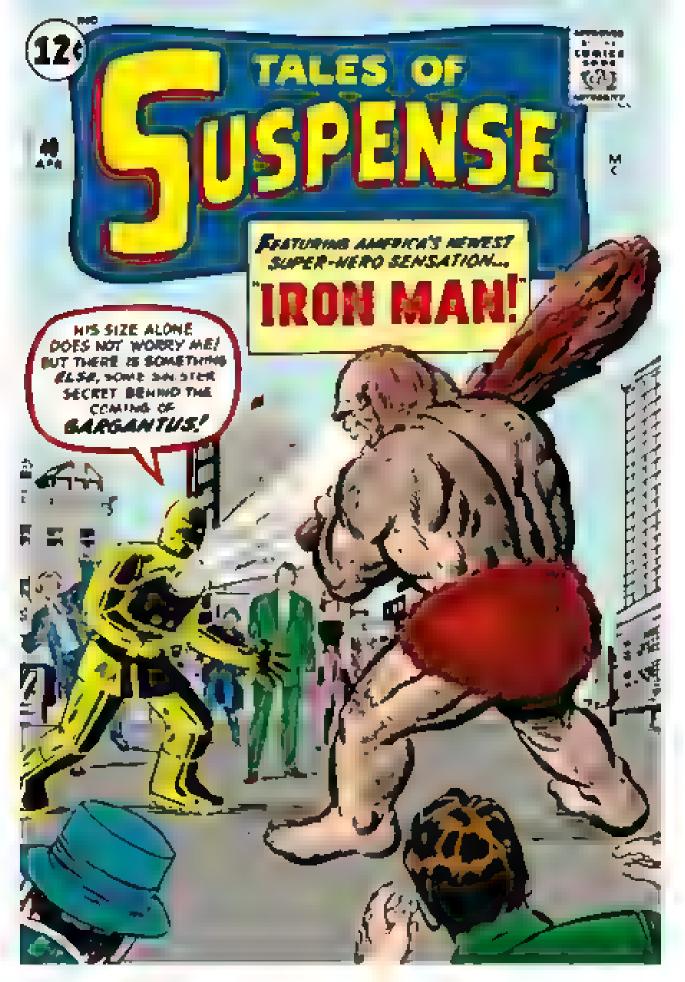




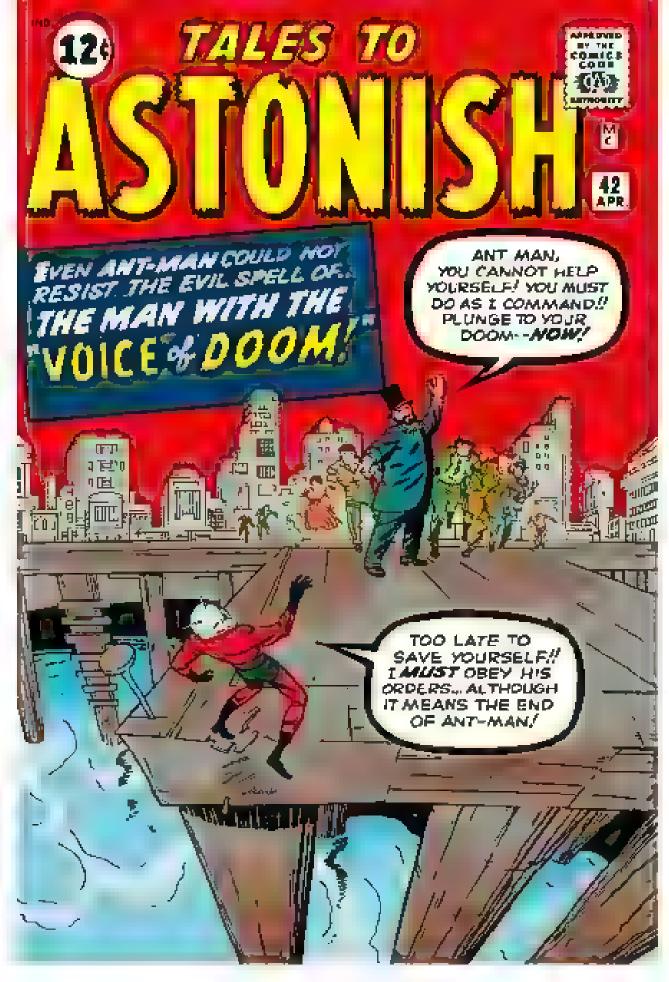
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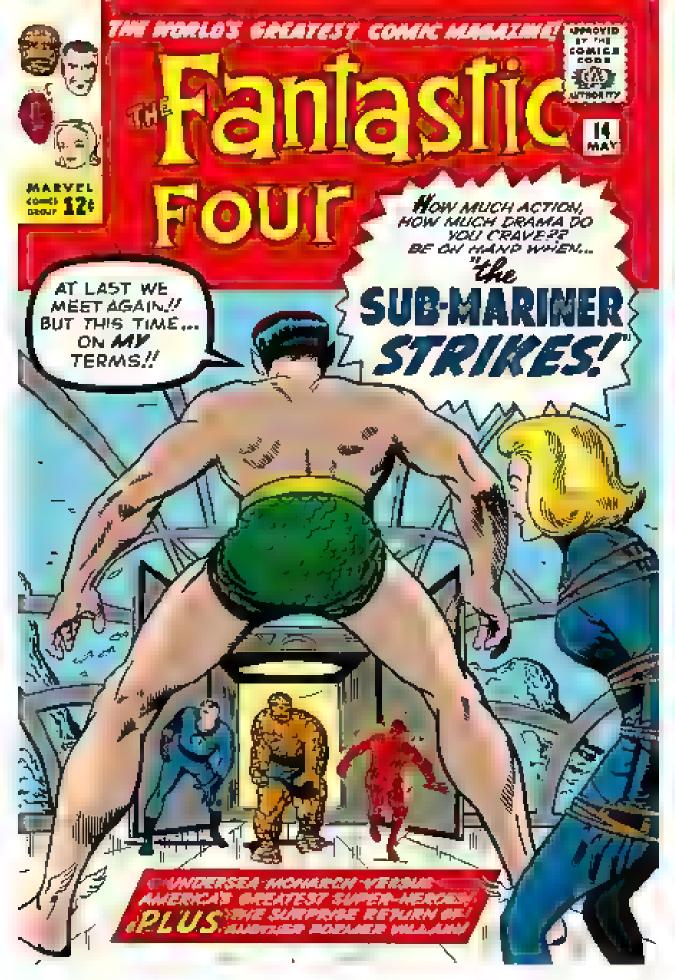
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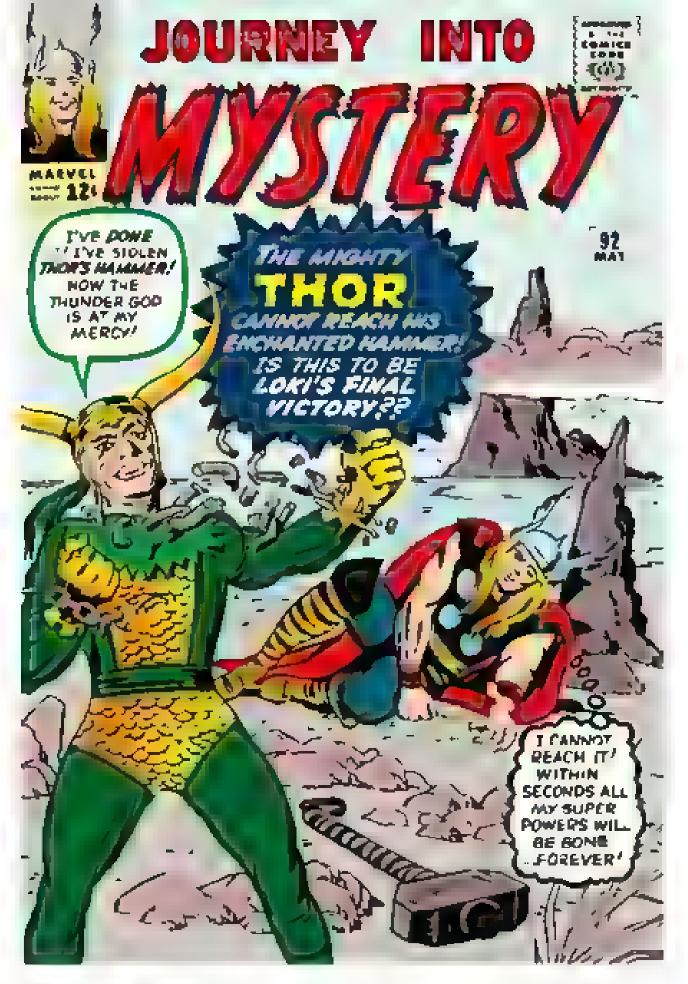
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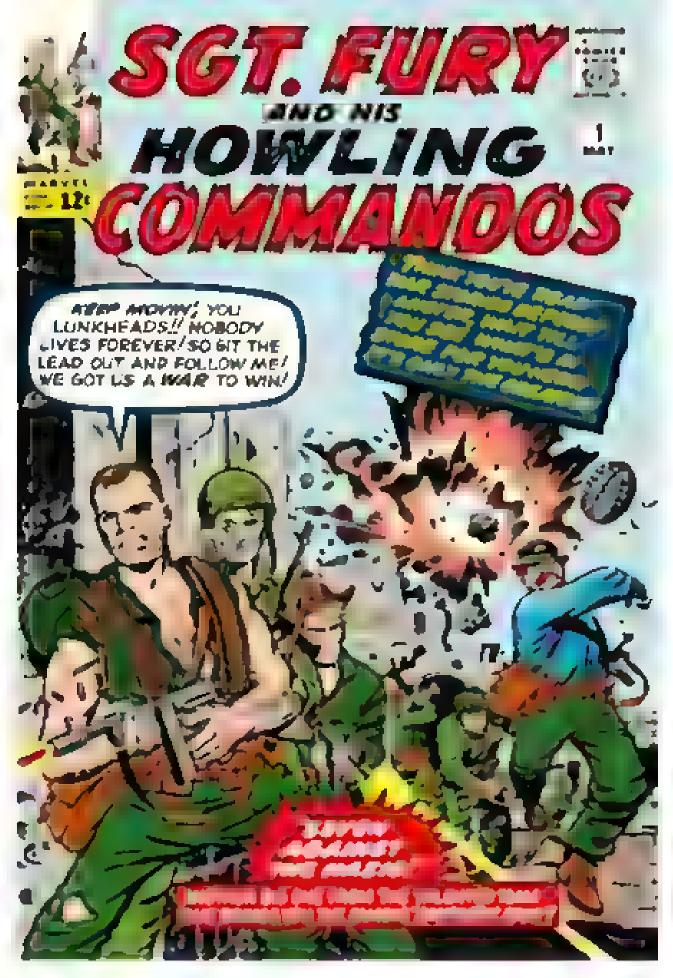
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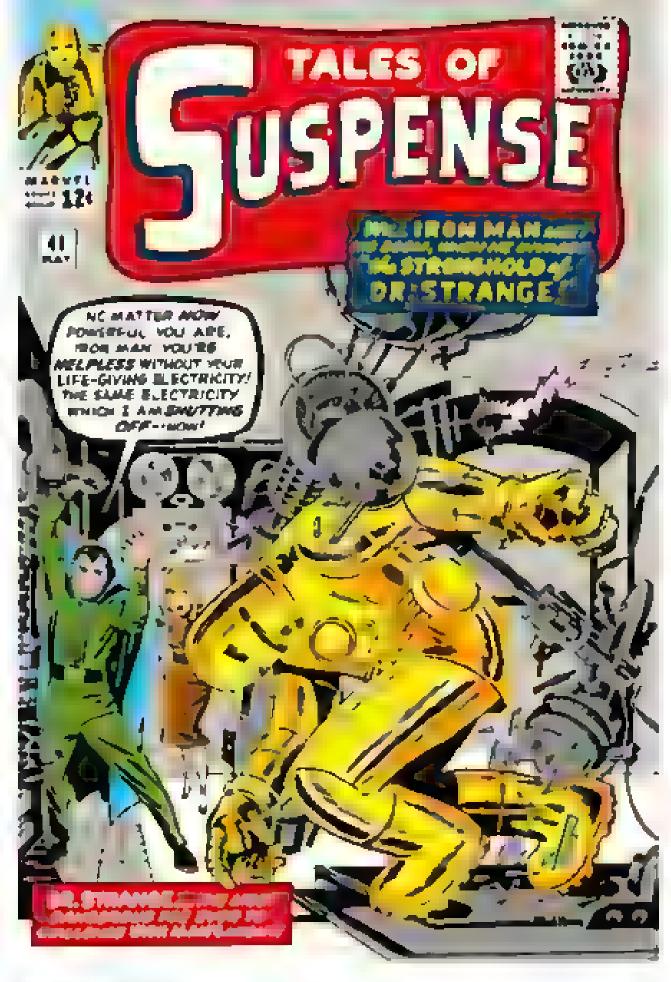


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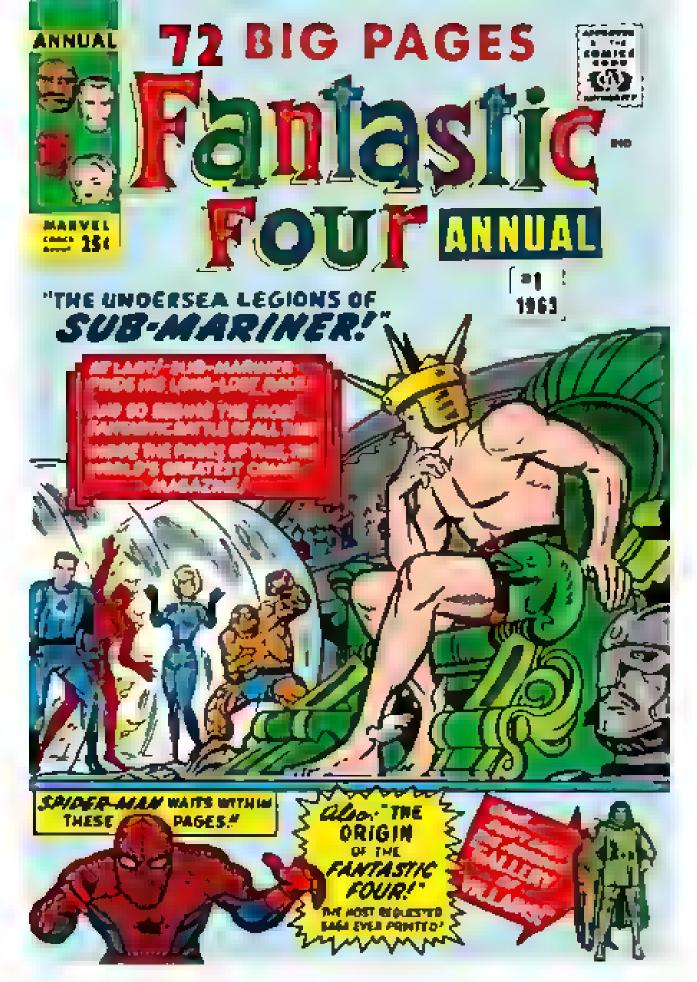




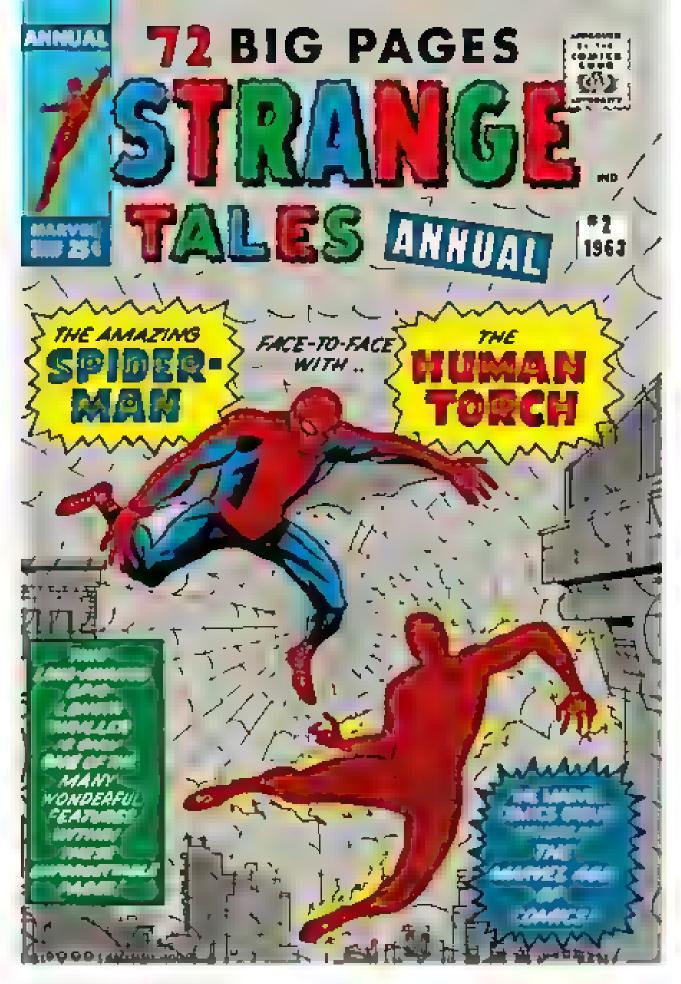




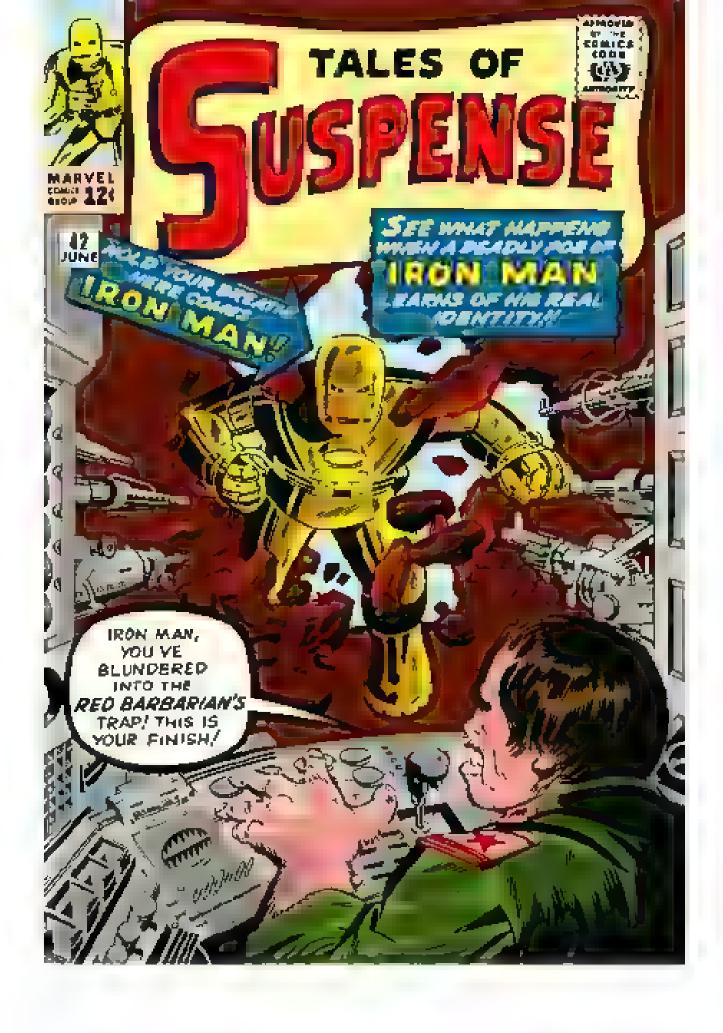
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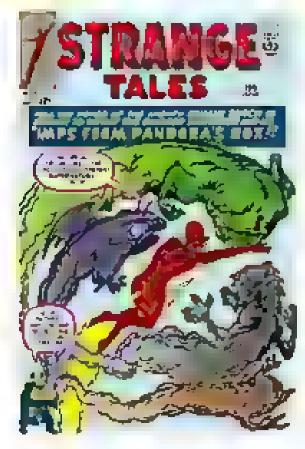


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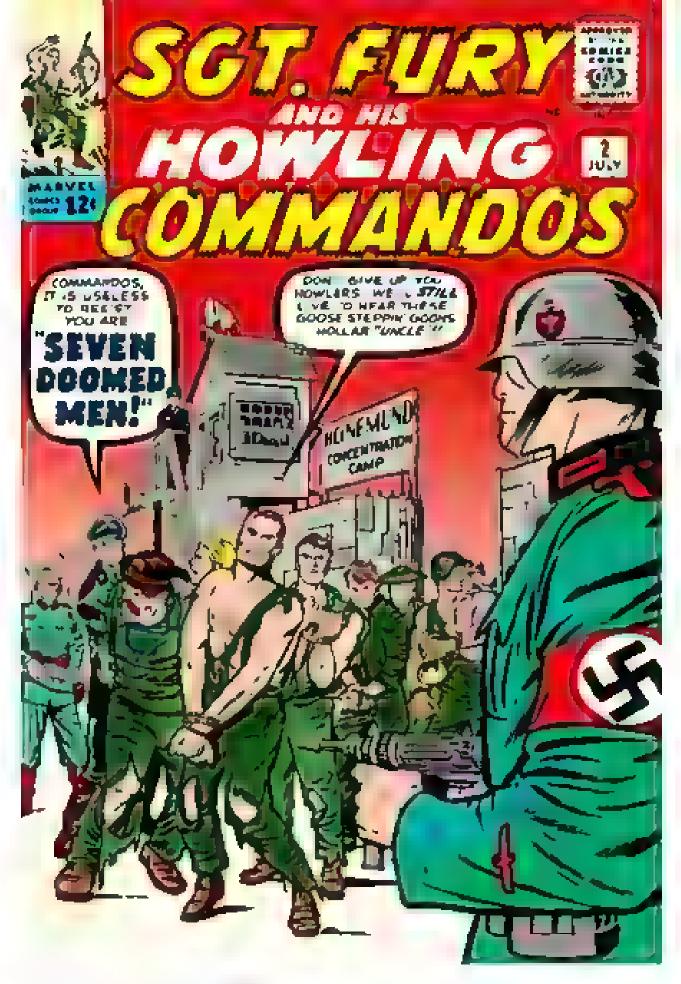
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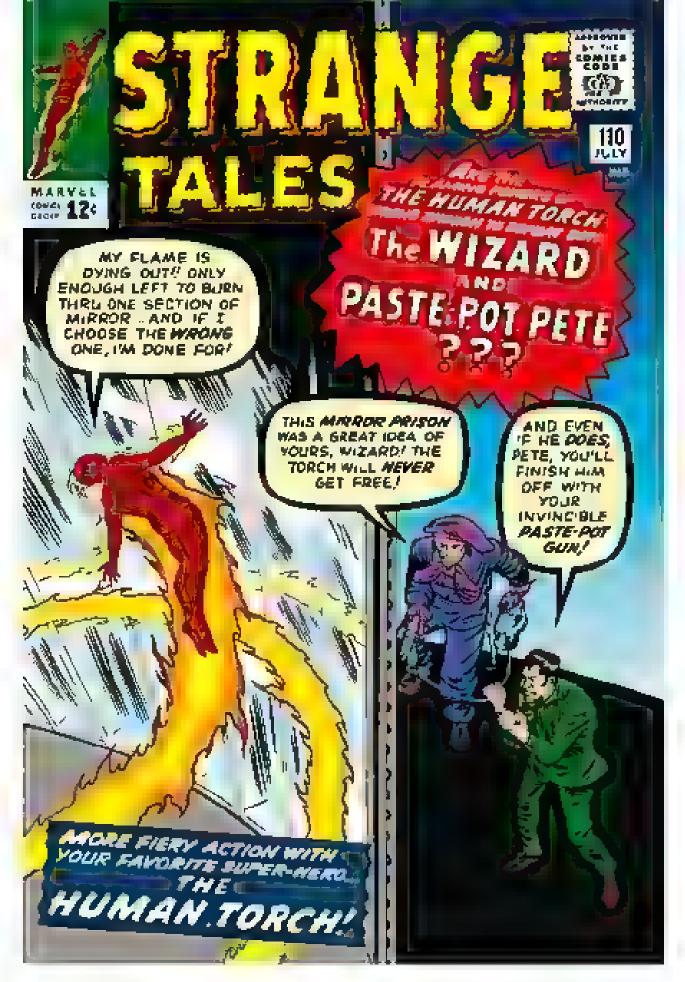
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Strange Take 1910 - tily 1967 Fürst appearance of Dr. Stephen Strange



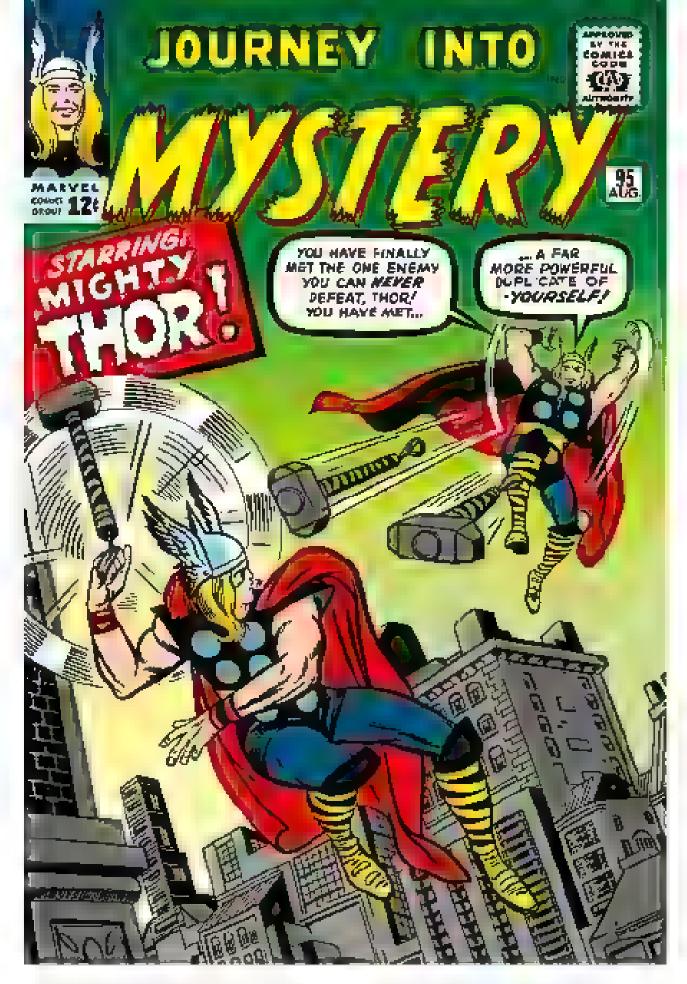
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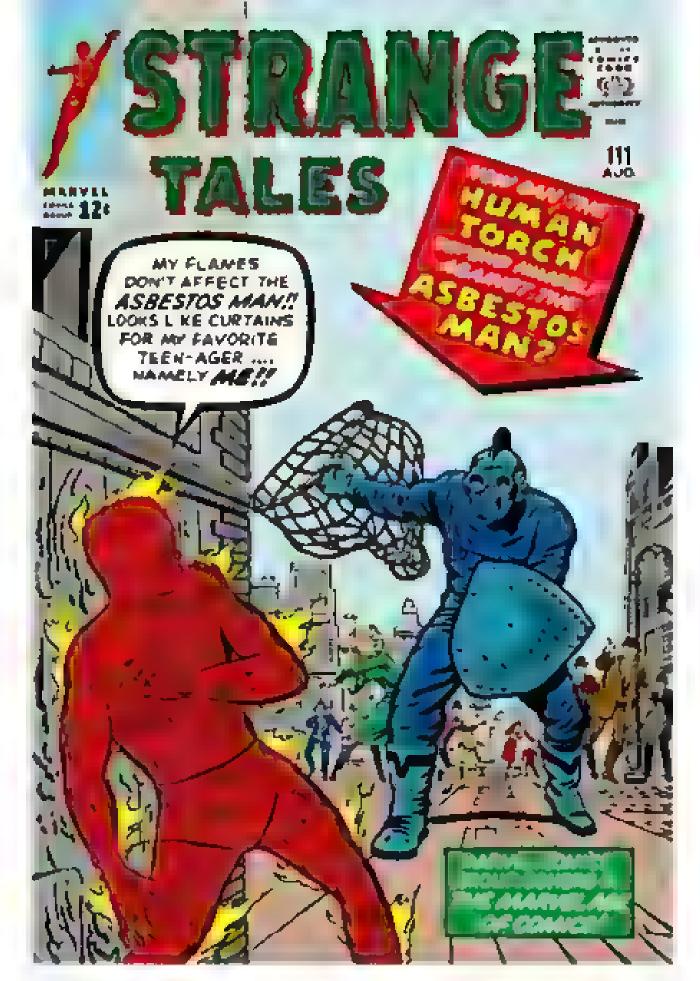
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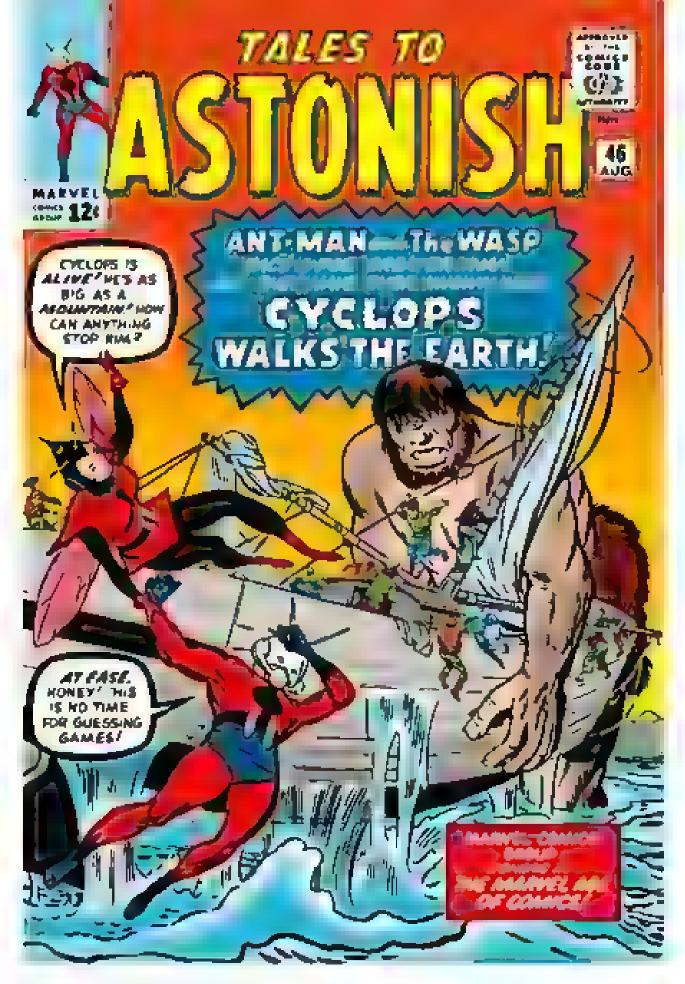
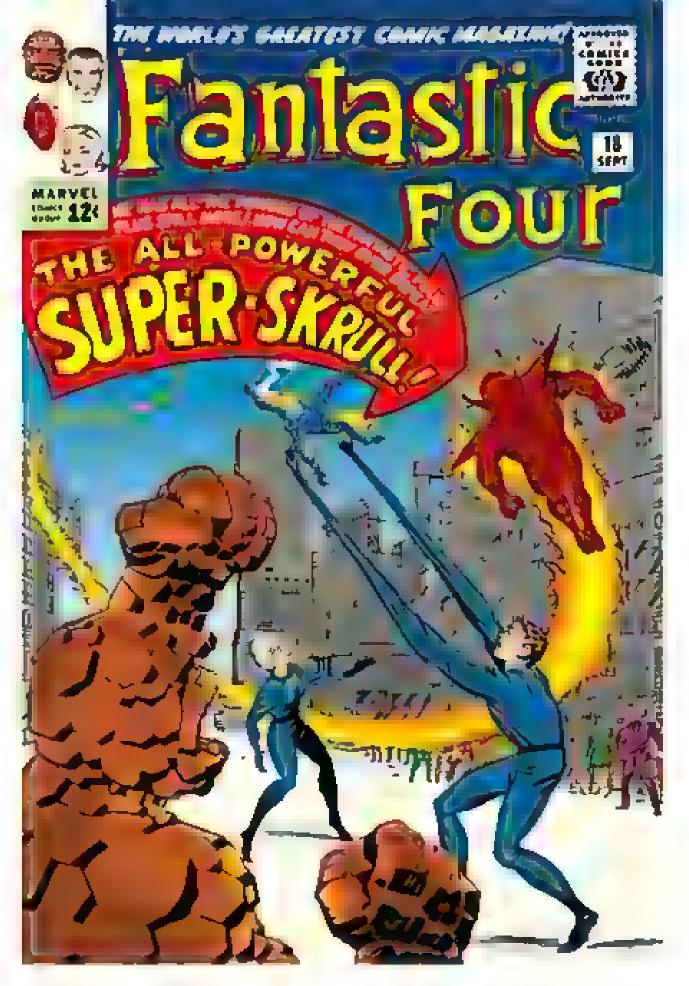


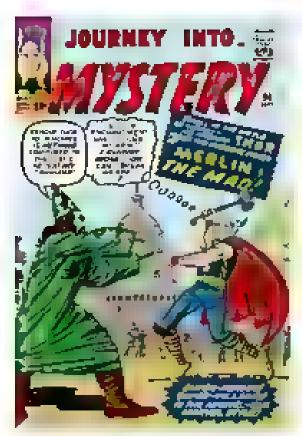
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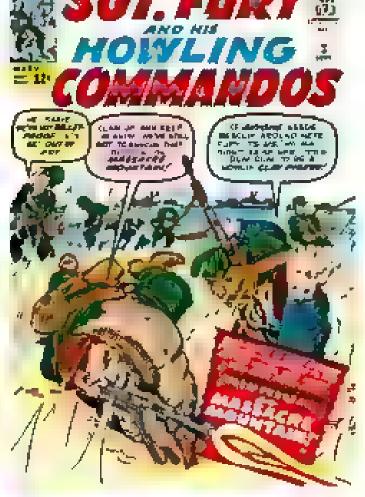


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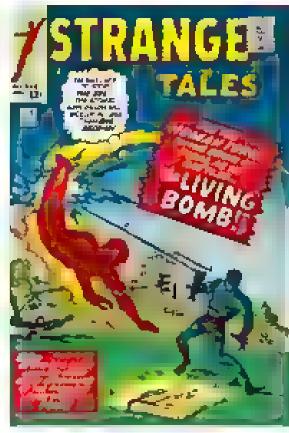
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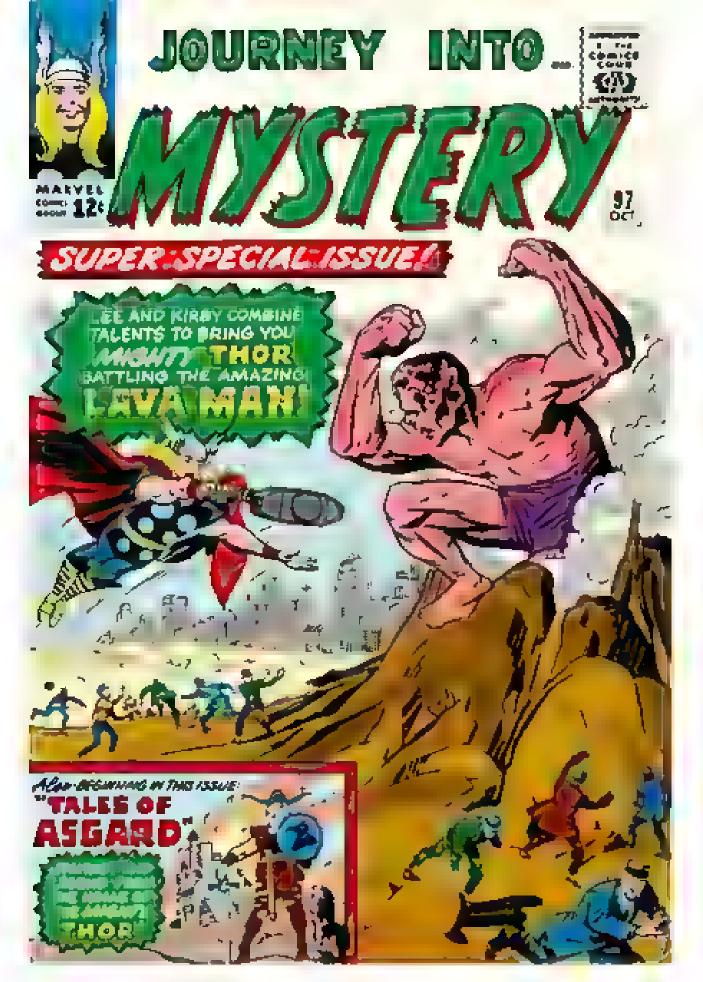
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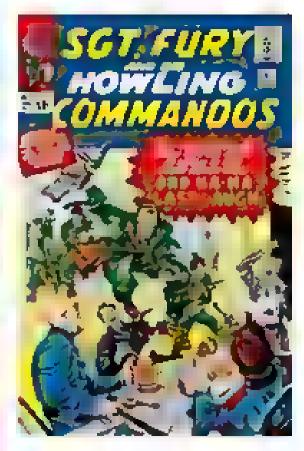


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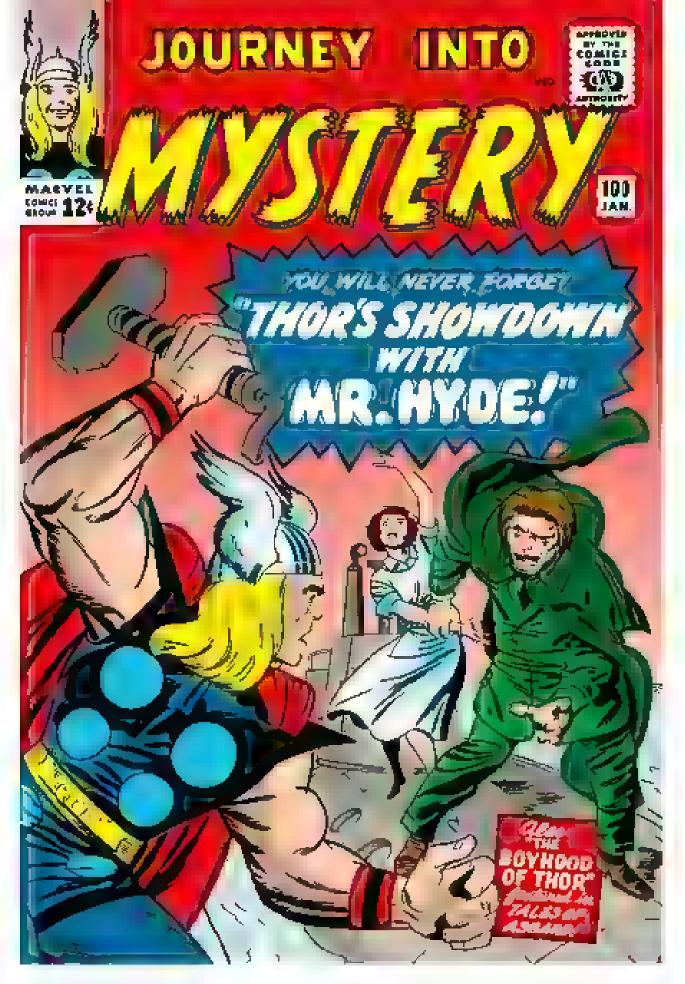




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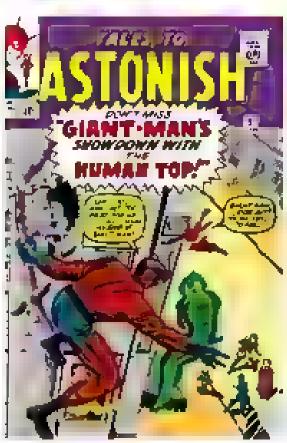
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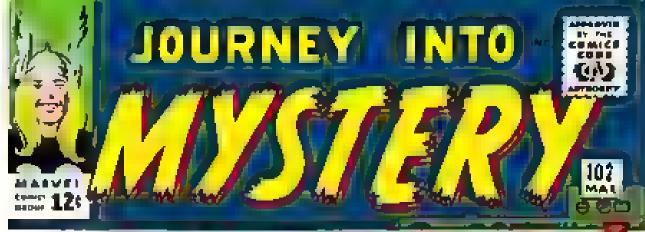
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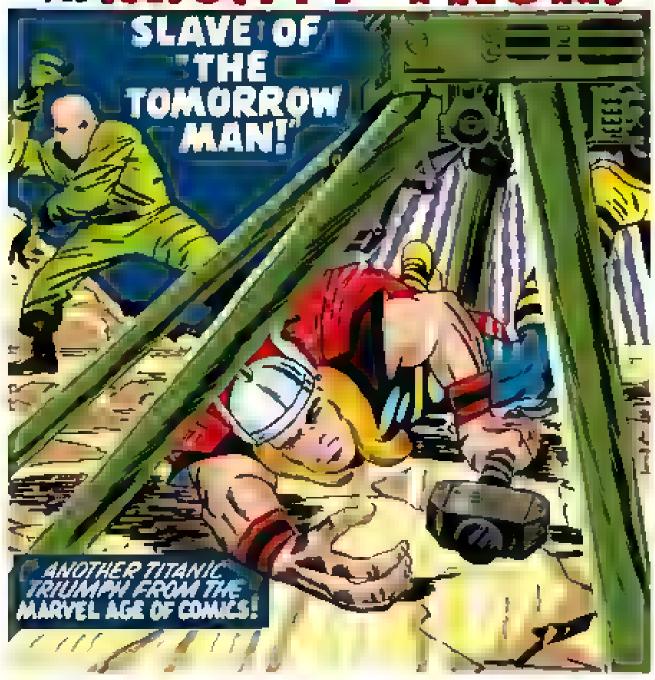
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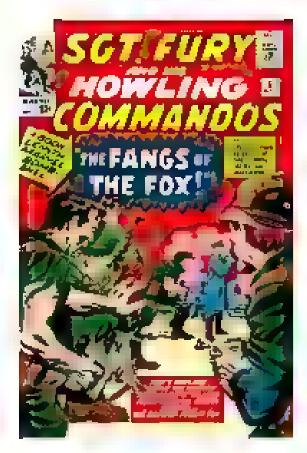
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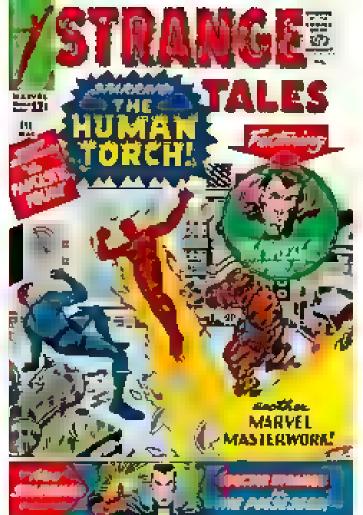


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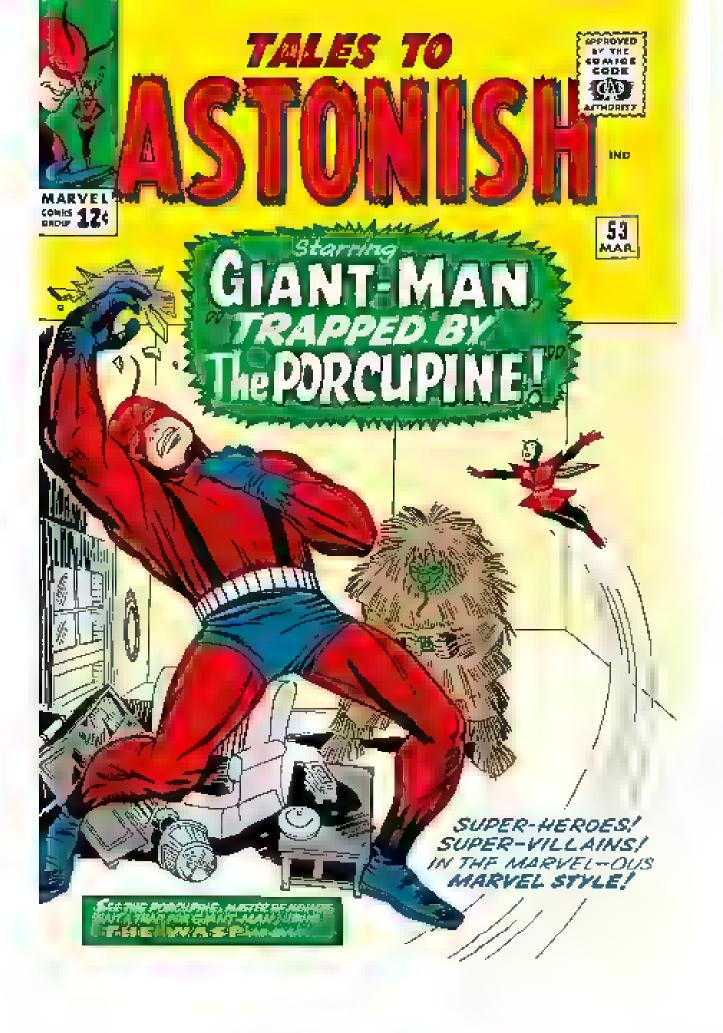
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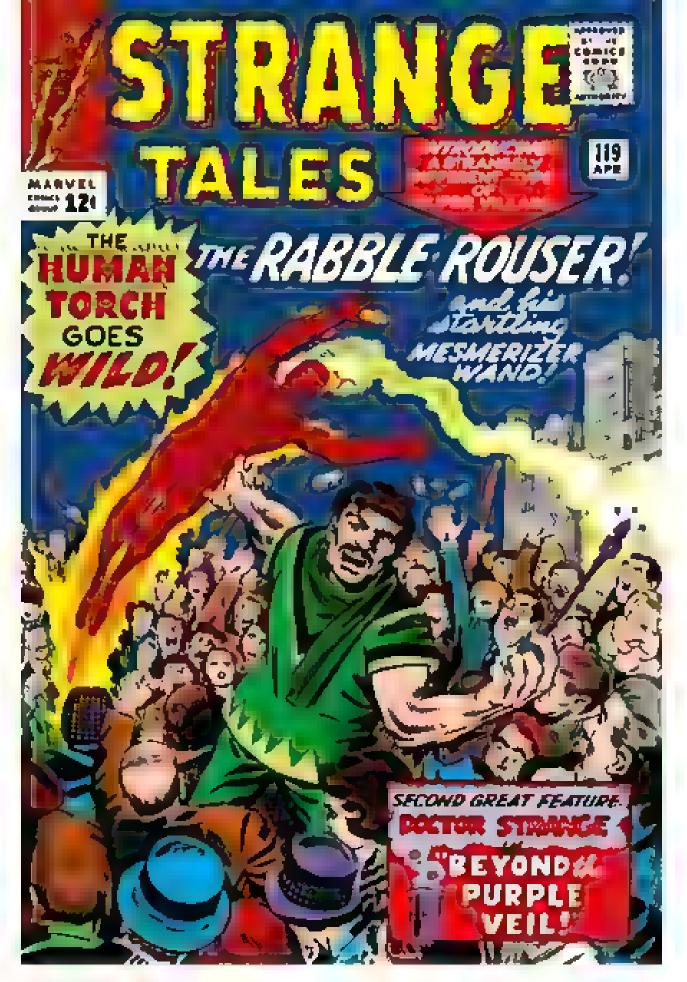
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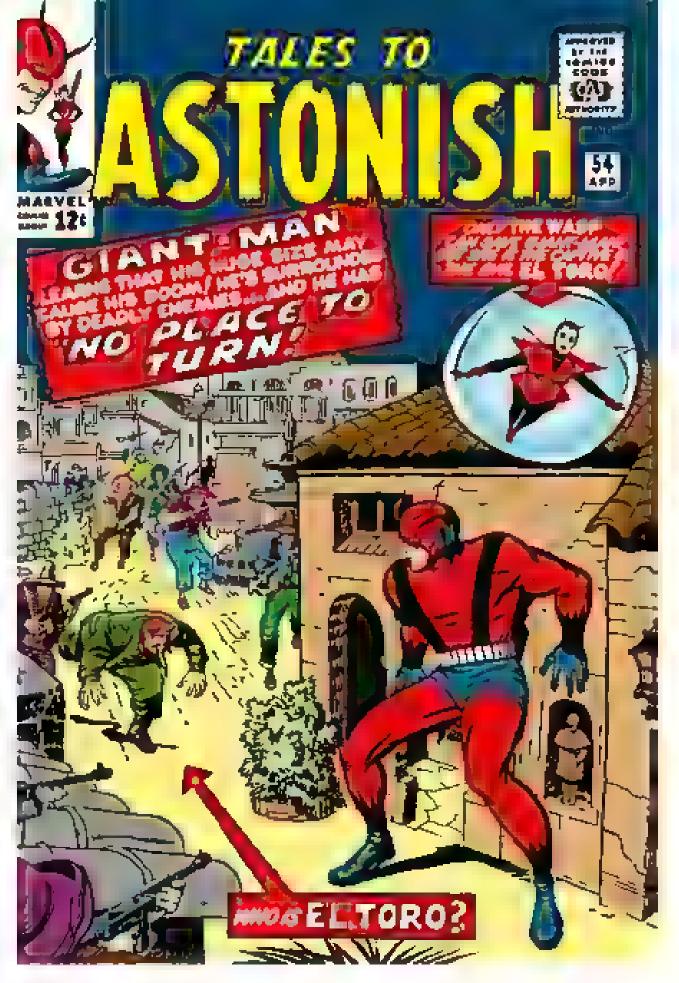
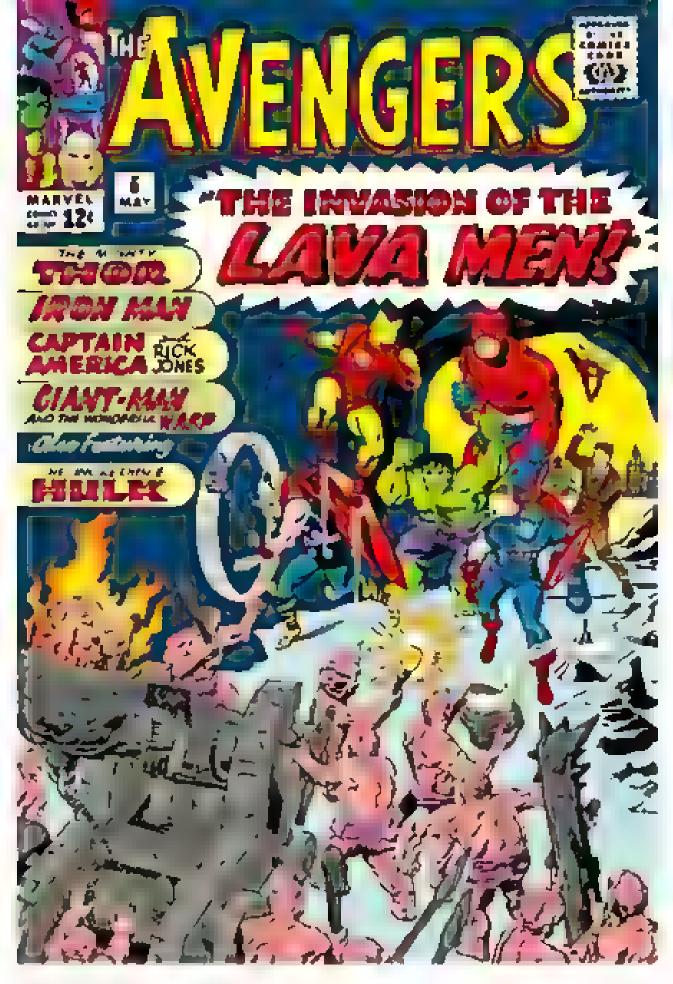


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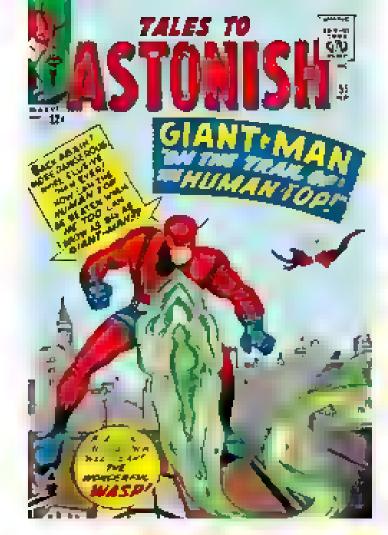


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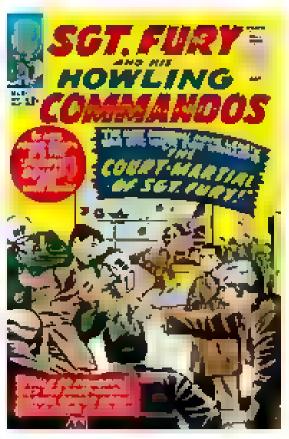


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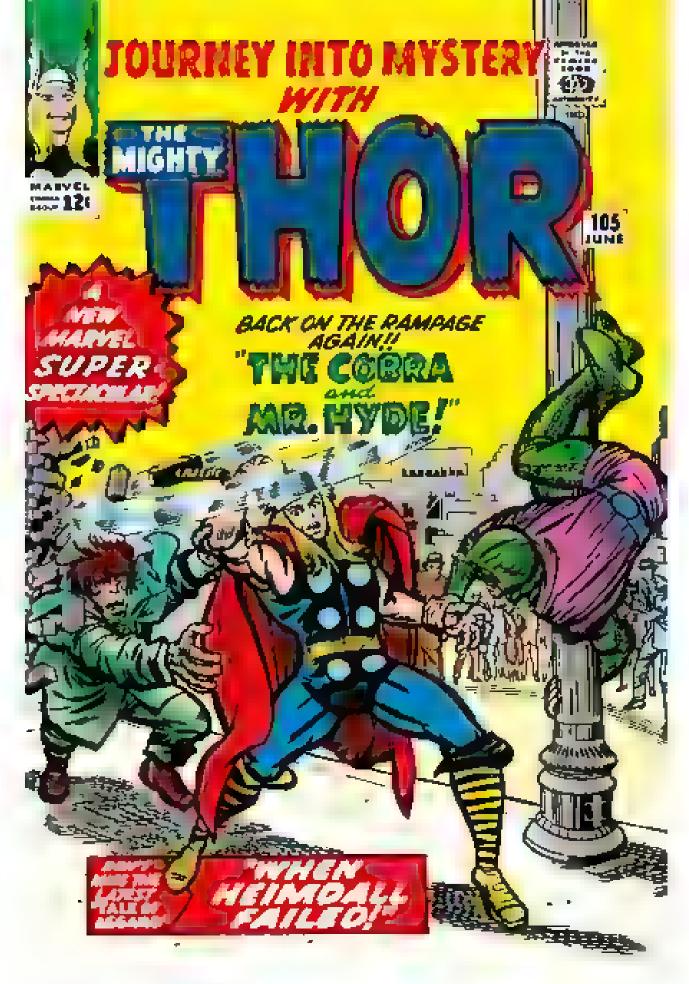
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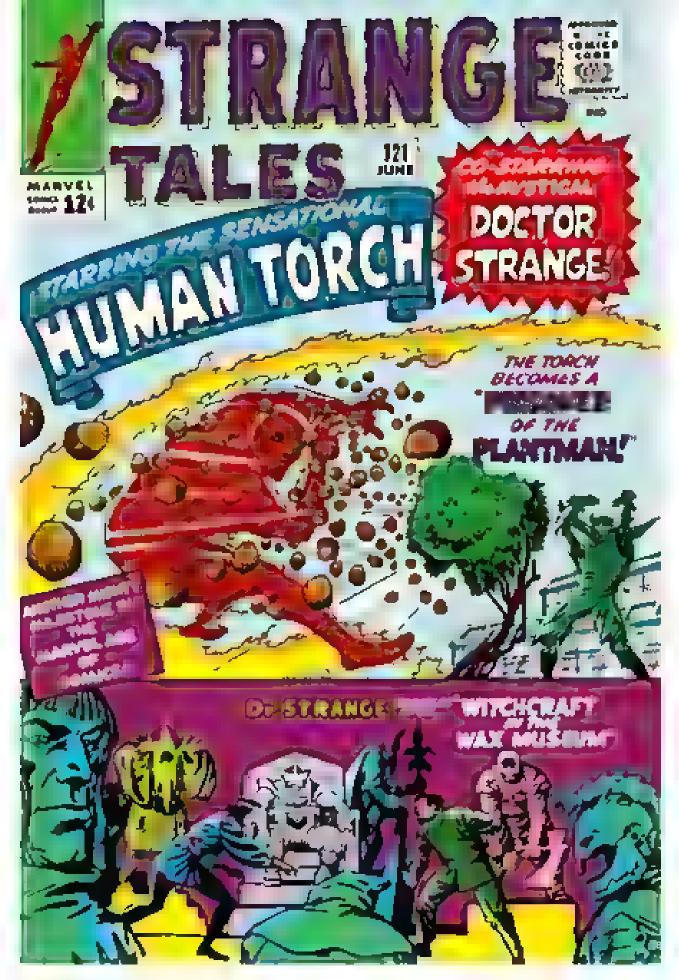
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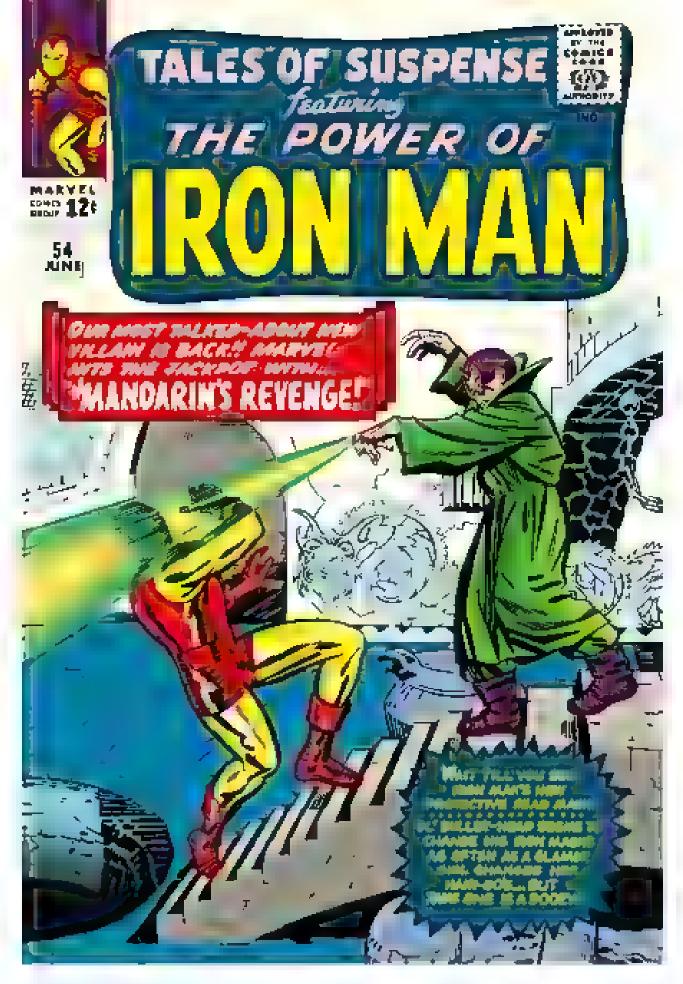
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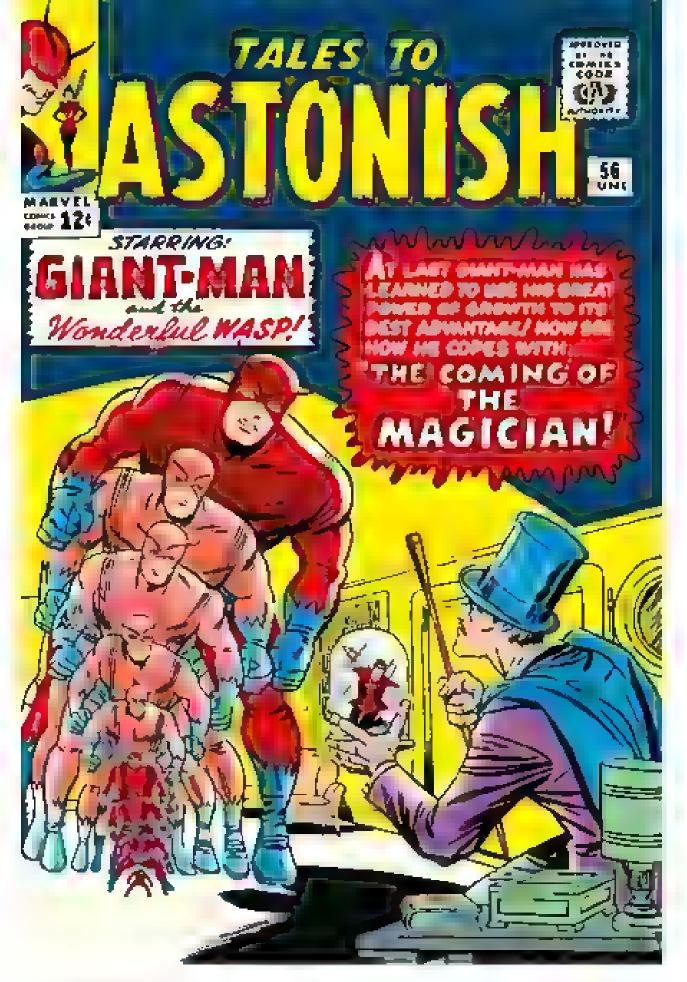
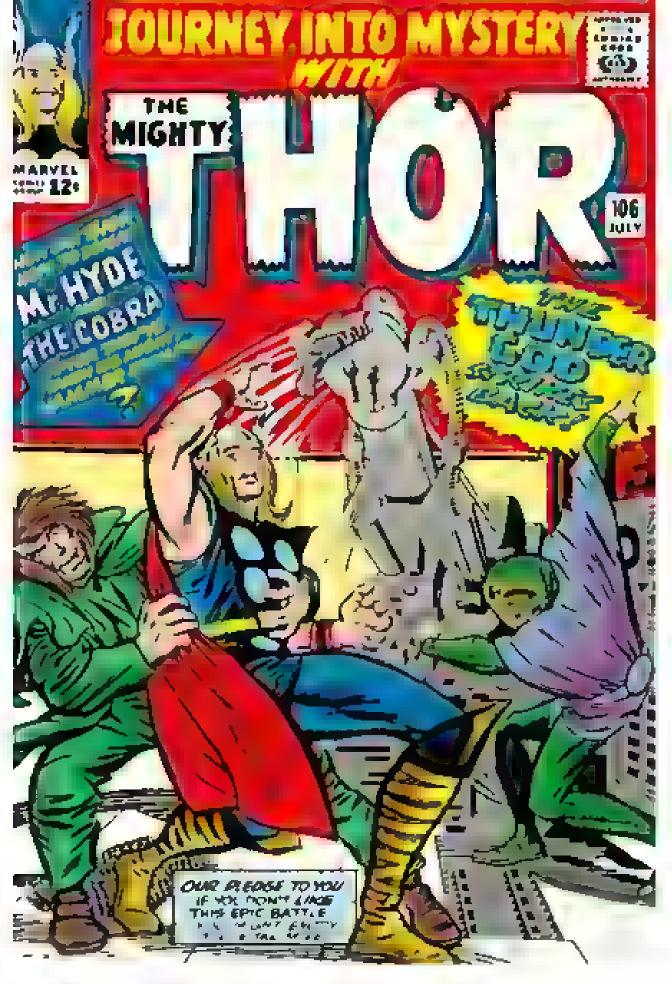


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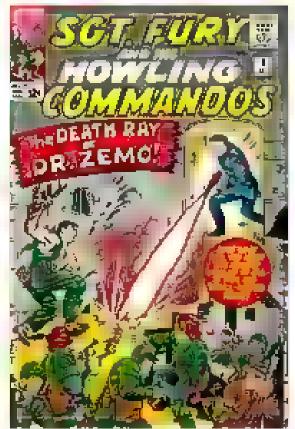
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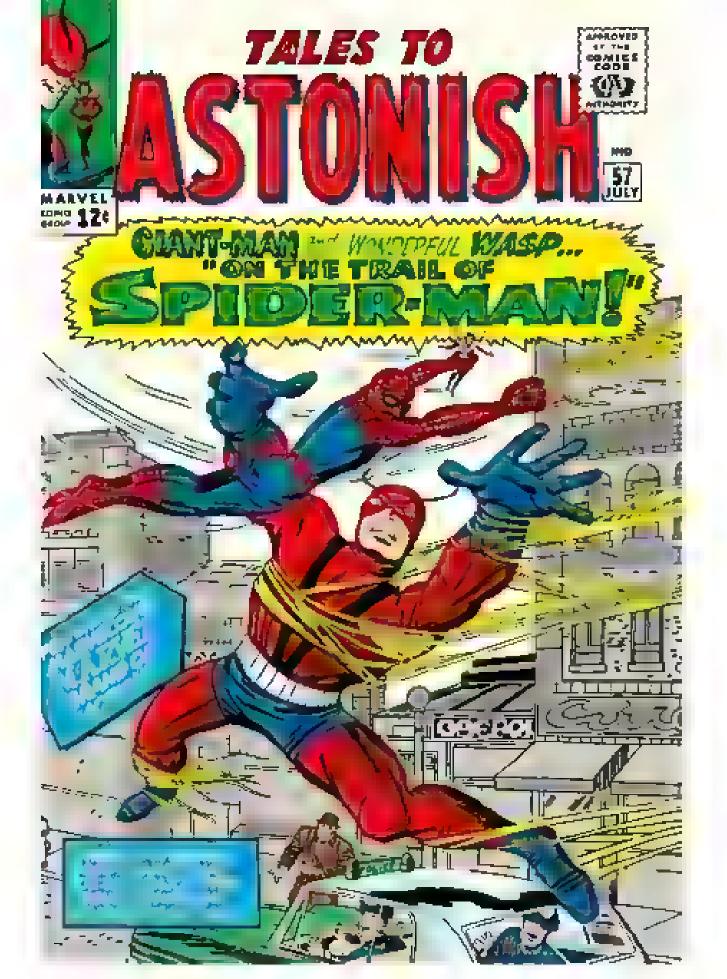
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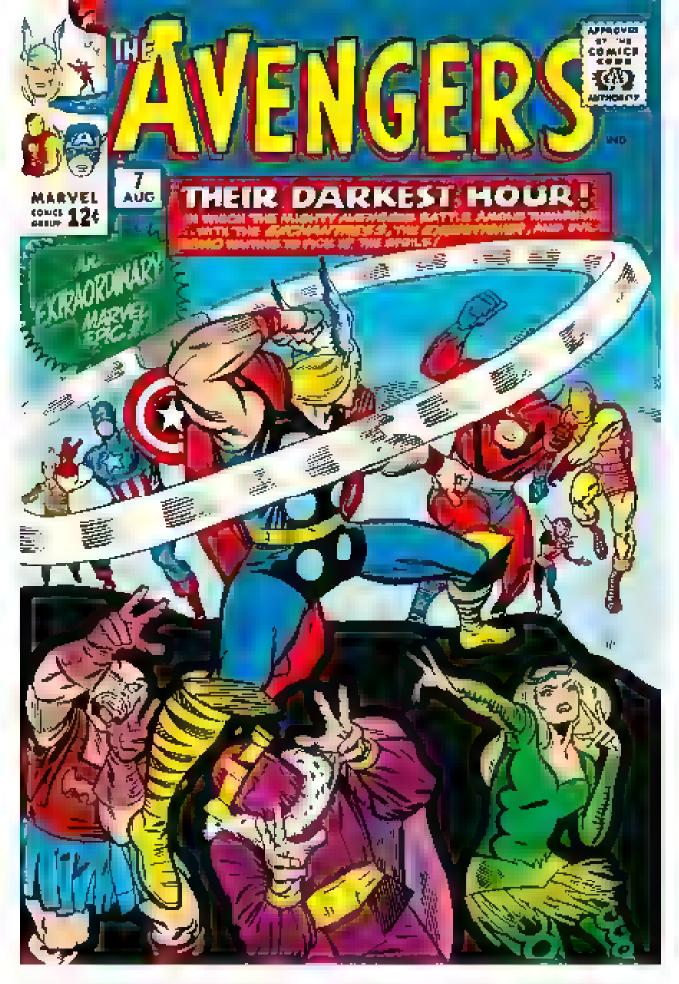
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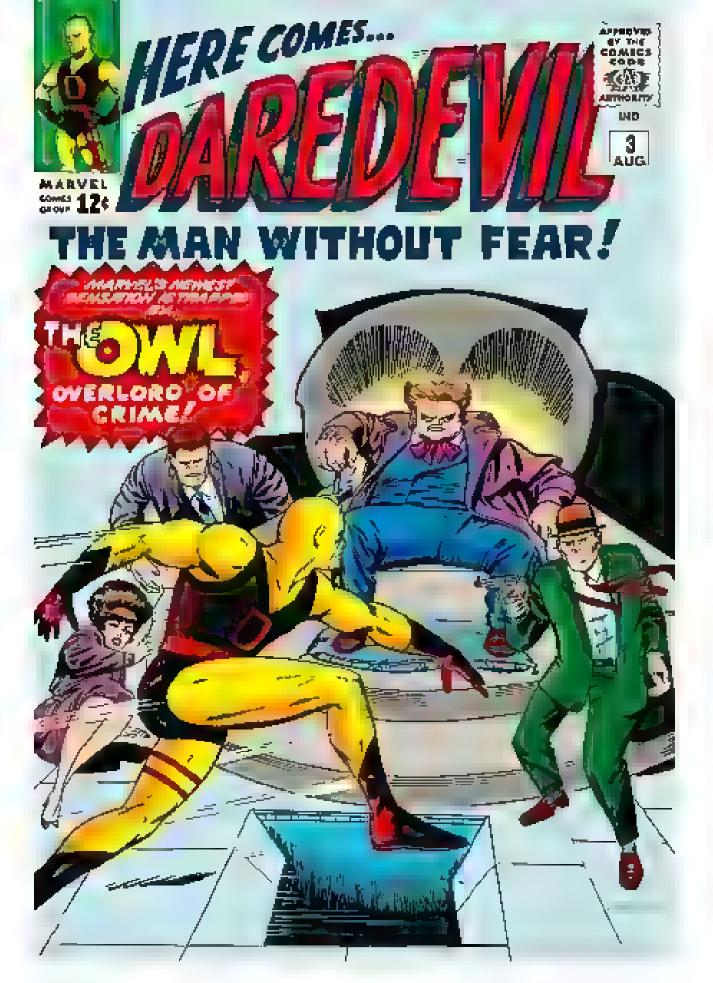




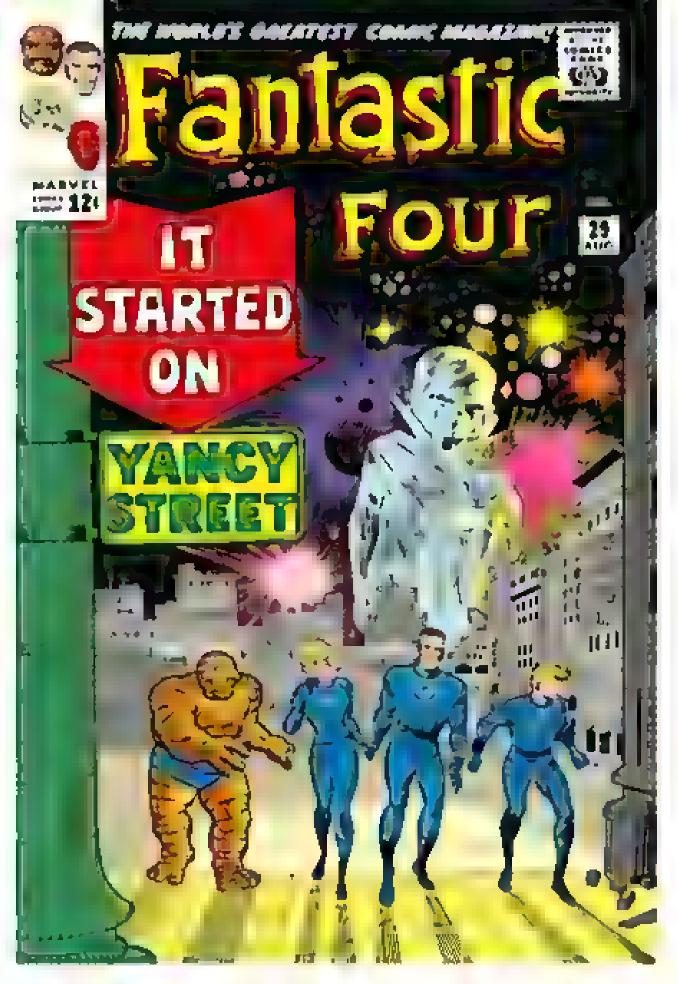
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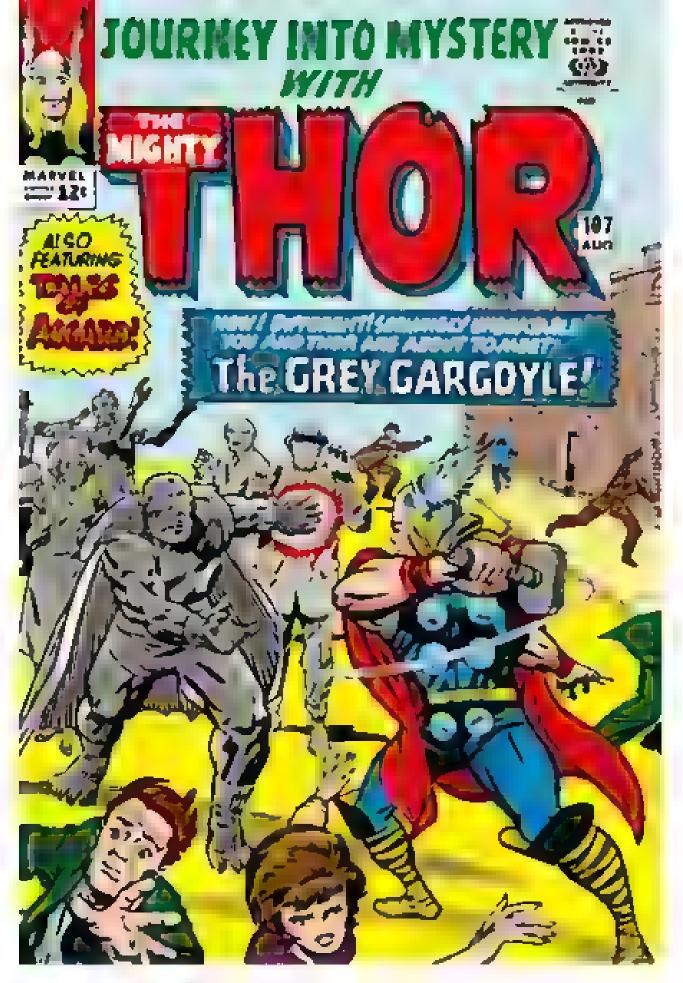
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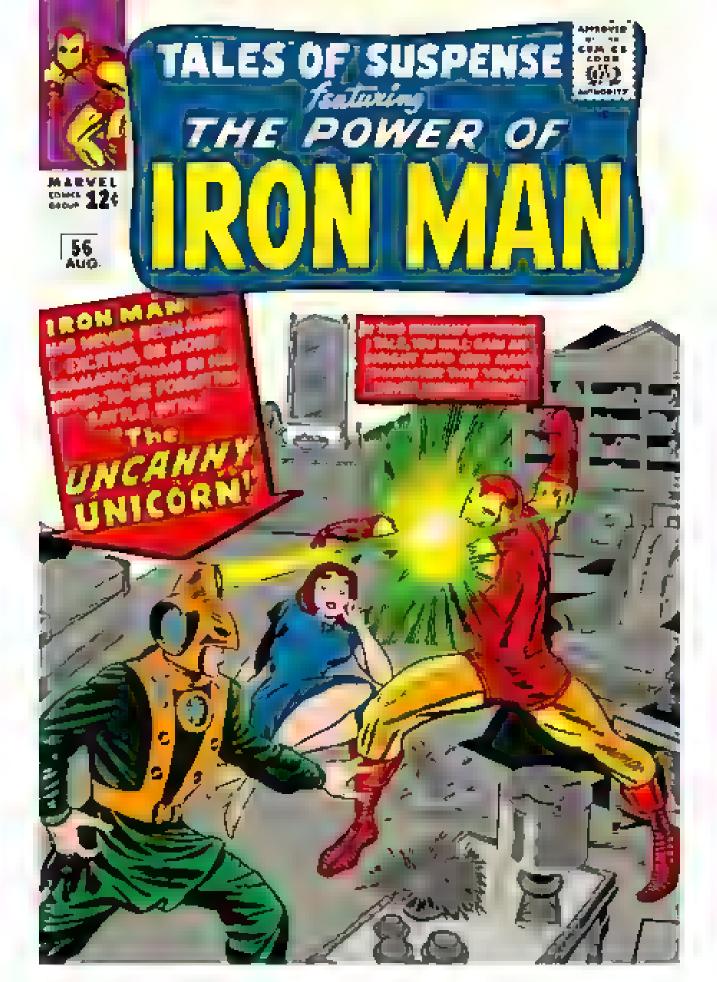
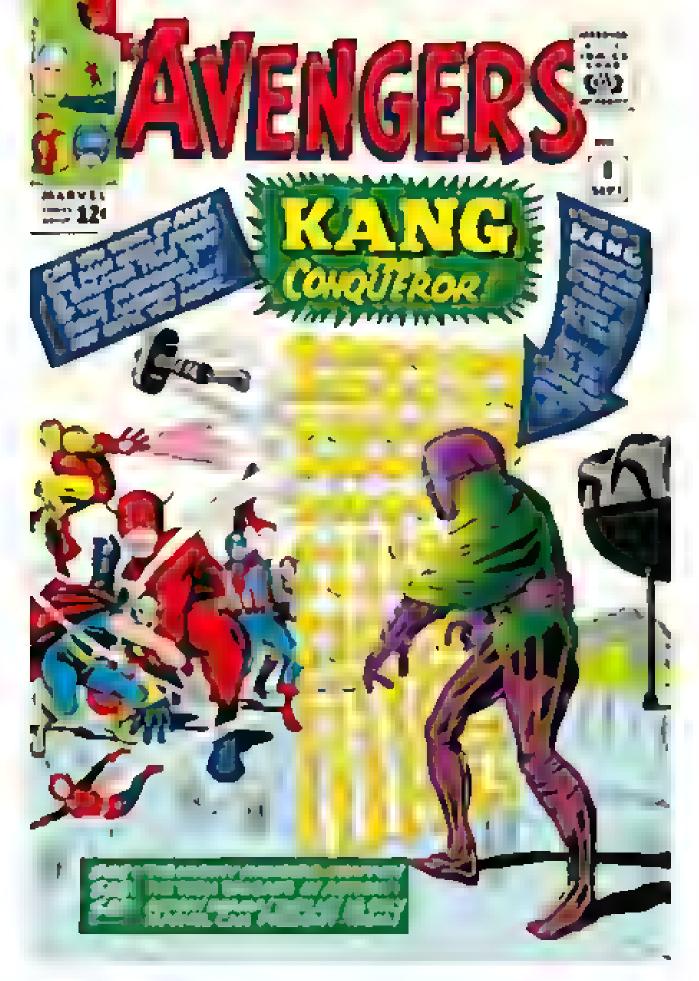


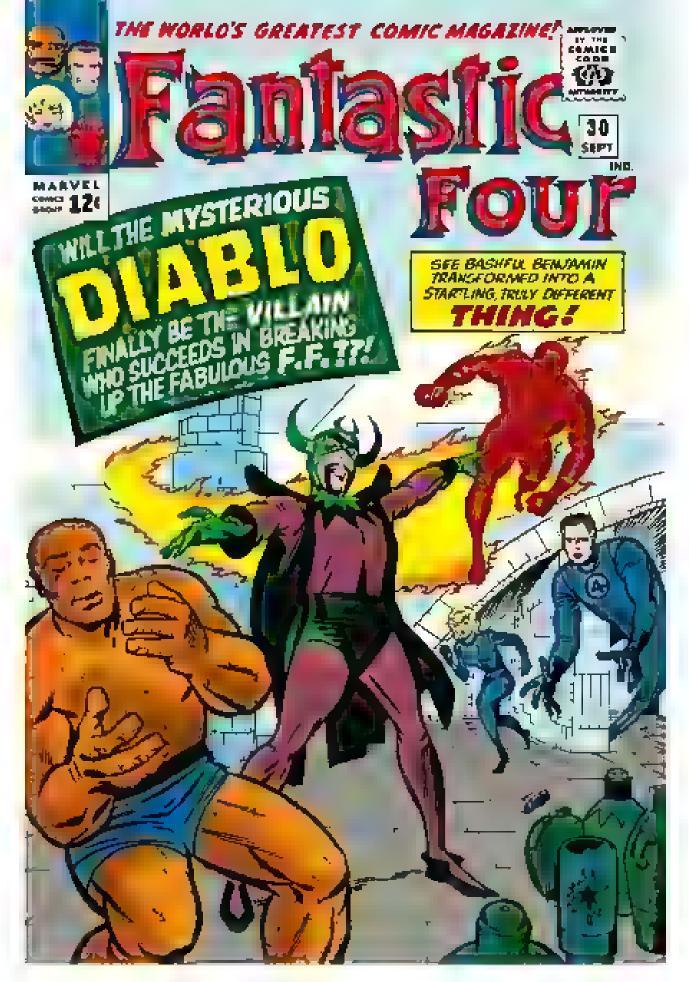
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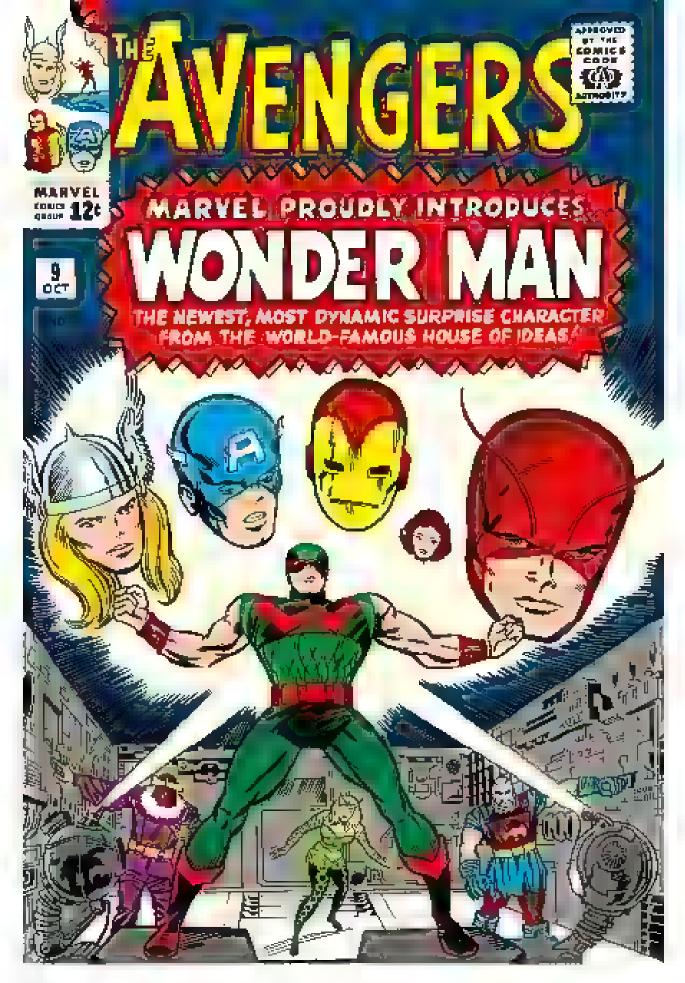
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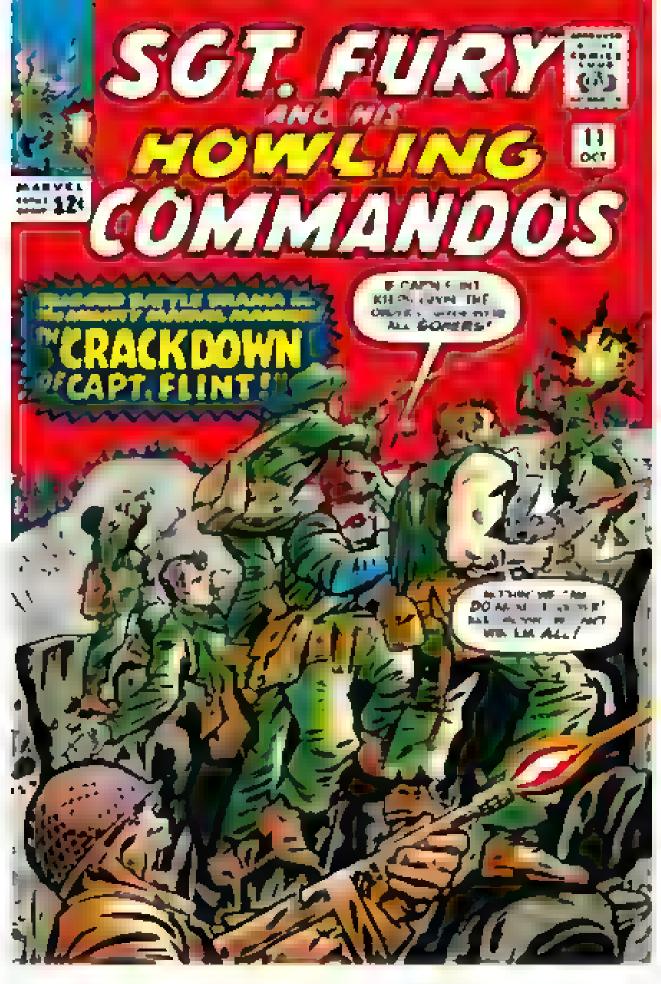
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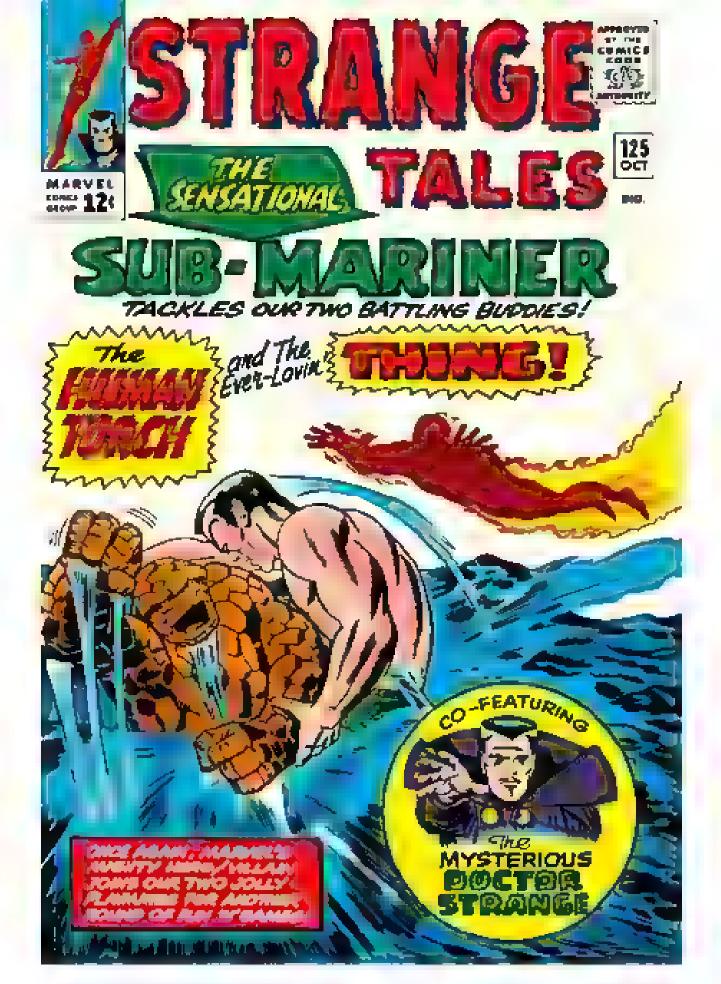
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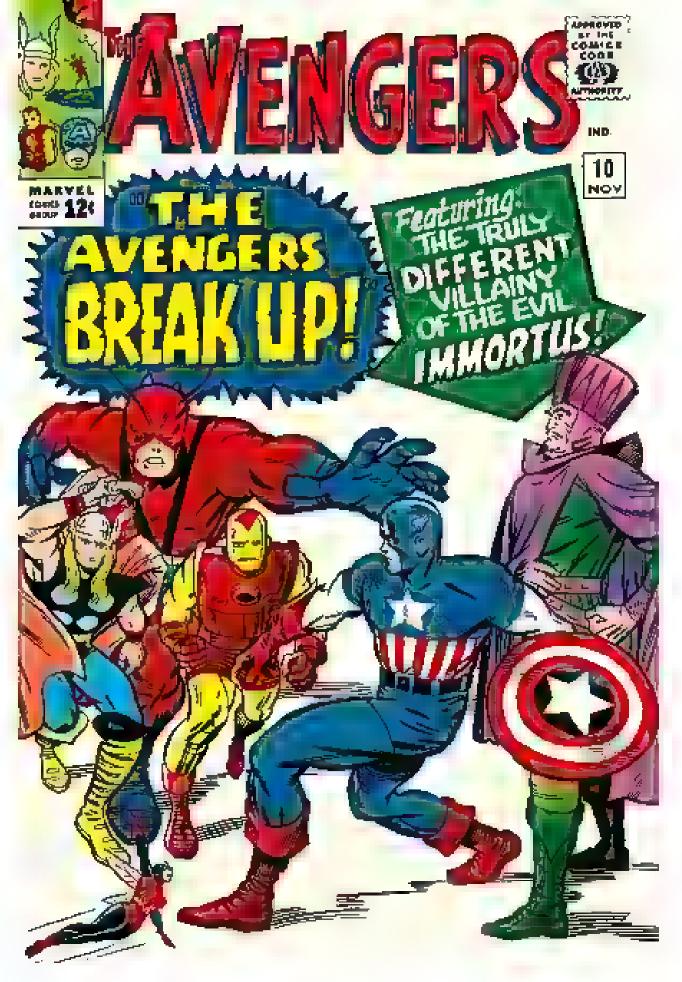




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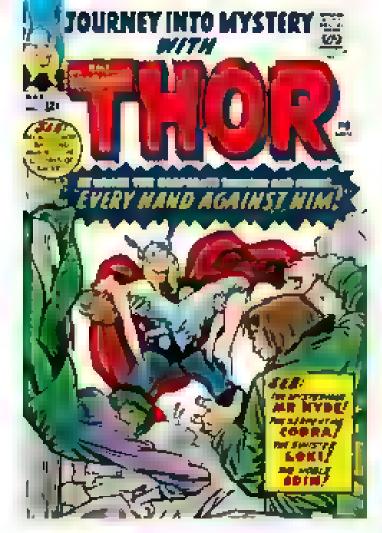


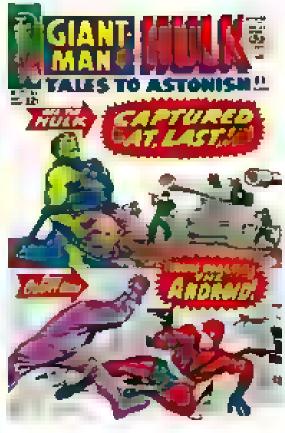
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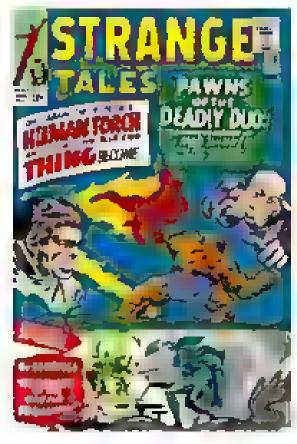


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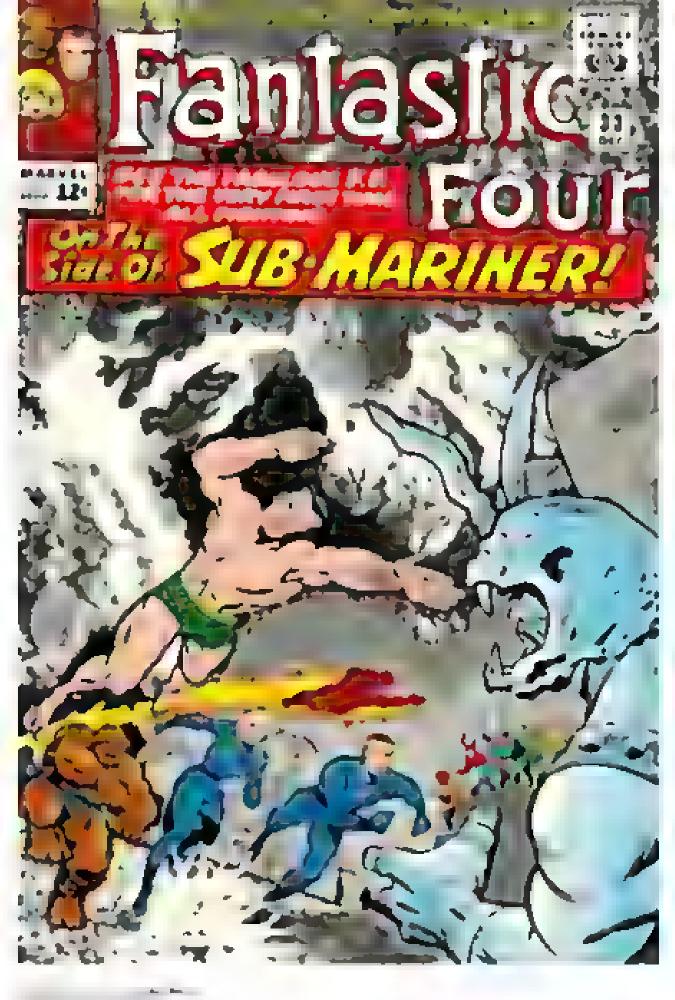
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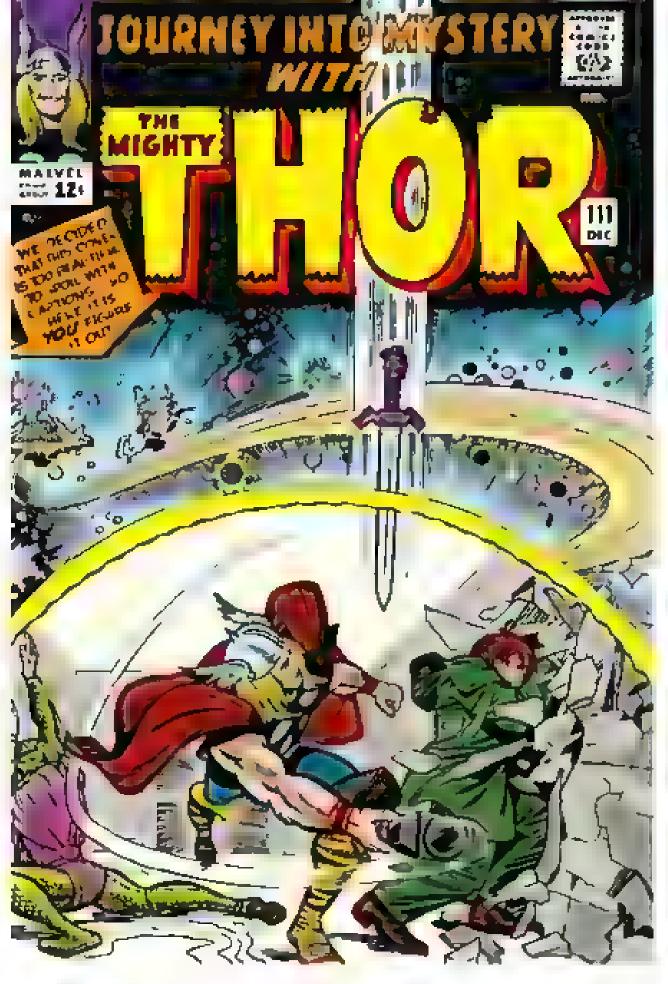
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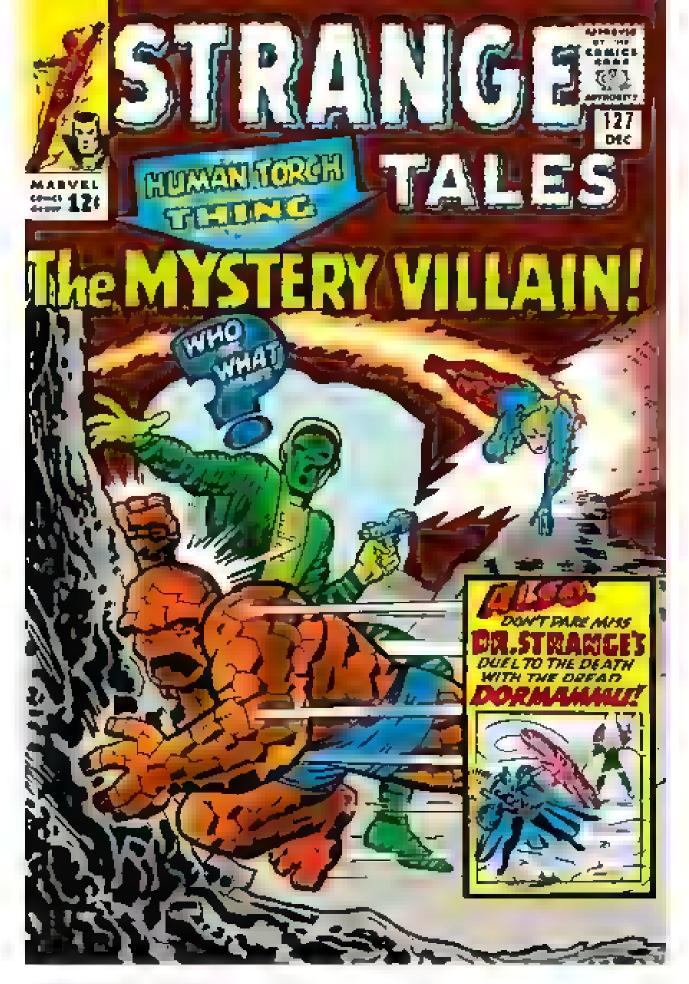
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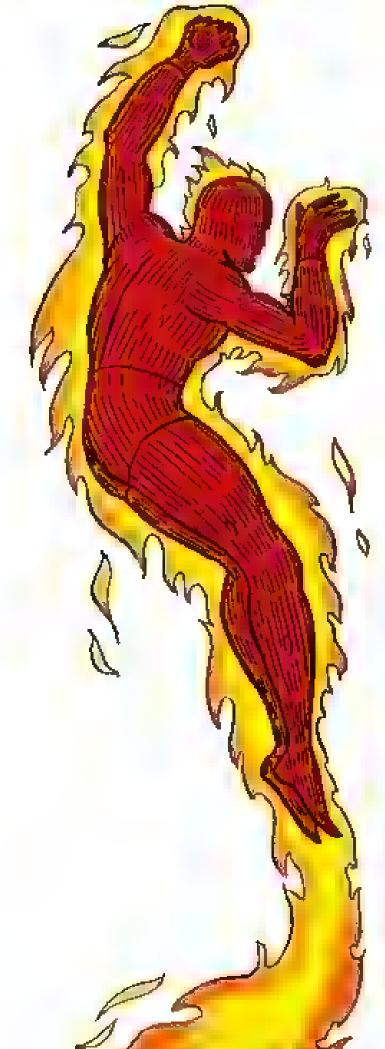
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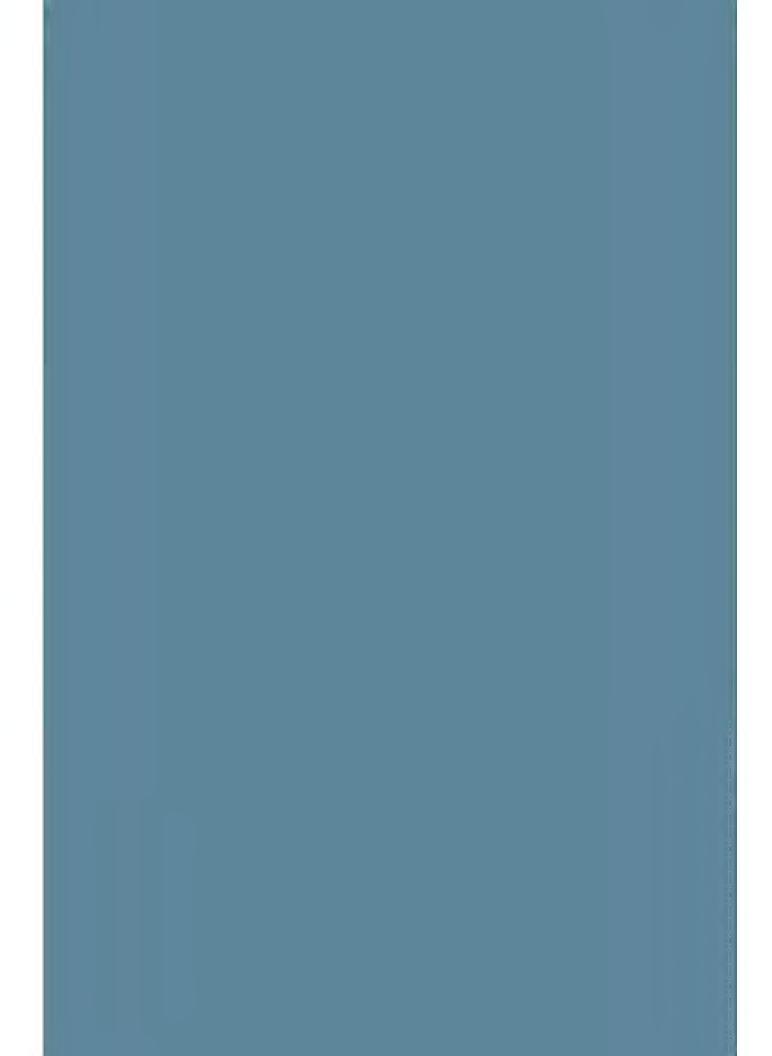
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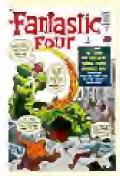






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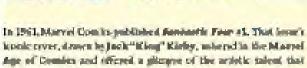












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